

IOWA BIRD LIFE

Summer 1995 Volume 65 Number 3



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

IOWA BIRD LIFE

Summer 1995

Volume 65, Number 3

CONTENTS

RANGE EXPANSION OF THE HOUSE FINCH IN IOWA	61
<i>Bob Cecil and James J. Dinsmore</i>	
FIELD REPORTS--SPRING 1995	69
<i>Thomas H. Kent</i>	
REPORT OF THE RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 1994	80
<i>Thomas H. Kent</i>	
RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD USE OF BUR-CUCUMBER DURING FALL MIGRATION, 1994: A POSSIBLE RESPONSE TO POST-FLOOD HABITAT CHANGES	84
<i>James Quinlivan, Michael Bornstein, and Kelly J. McKay</i>	
LITTLE GULL AT BIG CREEK LAKE	85
<i>Stephen J. Dinsmore</i>	
CLARK'S GREBE IN CALHOUN COUNTY	86
<i>Stephen J. Dinsmore</i>	
GLOSSY IBIS IN FREMONT COUNTY	87
<i>Thomas H. Kent, James L. Fuller, and A. Richard Tetrault</i>	
I.O.U. BUSINESS	88
<i>Board of Directors meeting, 2 April 1995</i>	
<i>Business meeting, 20 May 1995</i>	
<i>Board of Directors meeting, 20 May 1995</i>	
BOOK REVIEW	91
<i>A Photographic Guide to North American Raptors</i>	
FIFTY YEARS AGO IN IOWA BIRD LIFE	92

FRONT COVER: Henslow's Sparrow at Lake Sugema Wildlife Area, Van Buren County, 8 July 1994.
Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore.

INSIDE BACK COVER: Editorial Staff, Subscription/Membership Information, Instructions to Authors,
Officers, Board of Directors, Standing Committees.

BACK COVER: Meeting Dates, Report Deadlines, Birdline, Materials Available.

Copyright 1995 Iowa Ornithologists' Union



The IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *I.O.U. News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

EDITORIAL STAFF

James J. Dinsmore, Editor, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014 (e-mail: oldcoot@iastate.edu)
James J. Dinsmore, Summer Field Reports Editor, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014
James L. Fuller, Fall Field Reports Editor, 6 Longview Knoll, RR 6, Iowa City, IA 52240
Thomas H. Kent, Spring and Fall Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246
W. Ross Silcock, Christmas Bird Count & Winter Field Reports Editor, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653

SUBSCRIPTION/MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Institutions may subscribe to *Iowa Bird Life* for \$15 per year. Individuals may join the Iowa Ornithologists' Union according to the following membership classes: Regular (\$15); Regular as spouse or minor child of another Regular member without publications (\$4 first additional family member, \$2 each additional family member); Contributing (\$15 plus any additional tax-deductible contribution to the I.O.U.); and Life (\$300 as single payment or \$75 for each of four years). Members will also receive the quarterly *I.O.U. News* and are eligible to vote and hold office in the Union. Send subscriptions, membership payments, or address changes to Pam Allen, 1601 Pleasant St., West Des Moines, IA 50265.

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other materials relating to birds and bird finding in Iowa should be sent to the editor. Accepted manuscripts will generally be published promptly, depending on space available, with the following absolute deadlines: 15 November for the Winter issue; 15 February for the Spring issue; 15 May for the Summer issue; and 15 July for the Fall issue. Most manuscripts will be refereed. All material should be typed double-spaced or hand printed in ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Authors should pattern their style after a current issue of the journal. If you want more detailed guidelines or advice regarding the appropriateness of your topic for *Iowa Bird Life*, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the editor. Manuscripts may also be submitted on computer disk (Word 4.0 for Macintosh or compatible programs). Please submit one printed copy of the manuscript with the disk.

OFFICERS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Carol Thompson, President (1997), 116 Muscatine Avenue, Iowa City, IA 52240
Ann Johnson, Vice-President (1997), 532 120th Avenue, Norwalk, IA 50211
Mary Kuhlman, Secretary (1996), 1300 N. 29th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Pam Allen, Treasurer (1996), 1601 Pleasant St., West Des Moines, IA 50265
Other members of the Board of Directors: Ann Barker (1997), Beth Brown (1996), O. J. (Bud) Gode (1997), Matthew C. Kenne (1997), and Tim Schantz (1996).

STANDING COMMITTEES

Publications: John Fleckenstein (chair), Ann M. Barker, Dan Dorrance, David C. Edwards, Harold White.
Records: Thomas H. Kent (secretary), Tanya Bray, Ray Cummins, Ann Johnson, Francis L. Moore, Tim Schantz, Ross Silcock.
Membership: Diane Porter (chair), Pam Allen, Beth Brown, Laura Jackson, Ann Johnson.
Library/Historical: James J. Dinsmore (chair), Thomas H. Kent, Darwin Koenig, James P. Sandrock, Hank Zaletel.

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

May 1996, Burlington

May 1997-joint with South Dakota and Nebraska (planned)

FIELD REPORTS

Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the Field Reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to Jim Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014). An article describing the reporting process is also available.

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

*Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb)--3 March (W. Ross Silcock, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653)

*Spring (Mar, Apr, May)--3 June (Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246)

*Summer (Jun, Jul)--3 August (James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014)

*Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov)--3 December (Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

*Deadline for receipt of reports: 15 January. For forms and instructions write: W. Ross Silcock, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653.

IOWA BIRDLINE 319-338-9881

The birdline is a recorded summary of interesting recent bird sightings in Iowa. At the end of the report you can leave a message and report recent sightings. Be sure to give your name and phone number as well as the location of the bird and date seen. Call in as soon as possible after sighting a rare bird. Jim Fuller checks the reports daily and updates the recording on Monday, so make sure Sunday sightings are reported by Sunday night.

I.O.U. NEWS

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors (J. Hank and Linda Zaletel, 1928 6th St., Nevada, IA 50201).

MATERIALS AVAILABLE

The following materials may be obtained by writing the editorial office (Iowa Bird Life, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014):

*Order form for back issues of *Iowa Bird Life*: send self-addressed stamped envelope.

*Field Checklist of Iowa Birds--1992 Edition: 6 for \$1.00, postpaid. Also available at annual meetings.

REPORTING NEBRASKA BIRDS

Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of DeSoto N.W.R., should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005. Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa. The Nebraska Bird Line, available 24 hours a day, is 402-292-5325. Iowa birders are encouraged to report their Nebraska sightings to this number.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please send address changes/corrections to Pam Allen, 1601 Pleasant St., West Des Moines, IA 50265.

ISSN 0021-0455

RANGE EXPANSION OF THE HOUSE FINCH IN IOWA

BOB CECIL AND JAMES J. DINSMORE

The list of bird species known to occur in Iowa has increased steadily in recent years, growing from 362 species in 1982 (Dinsmore et al. 1984) to 392 in 1994 (Kent 1995). While it has been difficult to predict the first appearance of many bird species in Iowa, such was not the case with the House Finch. Iowa was in the center of an apparent pincher movement as the species rapidly expanded its range towards the state from both the eastern and western United States. In a rate of colonization that rivals both the House Sparrow and the European Starling, the House Finch has gone from unknown to ubiquitous in Iowa since its first documented arrival in 1982 (Kent 1982a).

The goals of this paper are to review this dramatic range expansion and to provide details on its spread across Iowa. To do so, we have compiled information from *Iowa Bird Life*, *American Birds*, and a number of state bird books. We have also received reports from a number of observers in Iowa. Ross Silcock provided us with information on the House Finch in Nebraska, and John Cecil helped compile the national Christmas Bird Count data. We are grateful to all of these individuals for their help.

ORIGINAL DISTRIBUTION

Prior to 1940, the House Finch was found in western North America, ranging from the West Coast east to western Texas and north through Colorado, Idaho, and southern British Columbia and south into Mexico. It was uncommon in western Kansas and Nebraska.

ARRIVAL ON THE EAST COAST

The attractive male House Finch had some value as a cage bird and was known in the trade as Hollywood Finch or Red-headed Linnet. It was thought that 100,000 or more had been sent to dealers in the eastern United States, the male making up the vast majority of the shipments. Due to the wildness of the species, they did poorly in captivity, and many died while others were released (Elliott and Arbib 1953).

In 1940, the House Finch was included on the list of migratory birds protected by an agreement between Mexico and the United States. As a result, House Finches could no longer be held or sold as cage birds. Efforts to enforce the ban by government agencies and the National Audubon Society were thought to have resulted in a release of the newly illegal birds, perhaps by a single Long Island, New York dealer, in 1940. From this beginning, a small population became established on Long Island and slowly increased. The first confirmed nesting was recorded in 1943, and by 1951, the House Finch population was estimated to number 280 individuals (Elliott and Arbib 1953).

The expansion of the House Finch through the eastern United States was extensively chronicled. After its introduction in New York, it was next found in New Jersey in 1949, and by 1951 it had appeared in Connecticut (Elliott and Arbib 1953). This early pattern of expansion became a prototype for the experience of the entire eastern United States. Known as jump dispersal, it involved the sudden appearance of a few individuals in a previously unoccupied

area. In a few years, the leading edge of the core population would catch up with these pioneers and fully occupy the area (Mundinger and Hope 1982).

ARRIVAL IN THE MIDWEST

With House Finches firmly established on the East Coast, their range gradually expanded to the north, south, and west. In January 1964, House Finches had reached eastern Ohio when up to four were found near Cleveland (Peterjohn 1989). A few were reported there for several more years, but the species apparently did not spread farther until 1972 when one was found at Marietta in eastern Ohio and in 1973 when it was found in Dayton in western Ohio. Breeding was not confirmed in Ohio until 1976 and was not confirmed in the Dayton area until the early 1980s. By 1984, the House Finch was established in all major cities and most rural areas of Ohio (Peterjohn 1989).

Indiana's first House Finch was at Michigan City near Chicago in November 1958 (Mumford and Keller 1984), but 18 years passed until the next was found, a male at Indianapolis in March 1976. By 1981, it had been reported in 12 counties and had nested in two (Mumford and Keller 1984). It presently is found throughout the state.

The species first appeared in Illinois in 1971, but it remained rare in the state for about a decade (Bohlen 1989). The state's first breeding was not confirmed until 1982 when a nest and young were found in extreme eastern Illinois (Goff and Goff 1982), and in 1984, when several nests were found in Danville, also in eastern Illinois. In geographical terms, a significant range expansion occurred in 1985 when nesting was confirmed in Macomb in 1985, only about 30 miles east of the Iowa border (Franks 1985). By the mid 1980s, it was found statewide (Bohlen 1989).

In Missouri, the first individual, an immature male, reached St. Louis in late November 1974. The next record, also an immature male, was in winter 1977-78 in St. Louis. After a delay of almost six years, a third was found in 1983, also the year of the first confirmed nesting. By the late 1980s, it was established over most of the state (Robbins and Easterla 1992).

In Wisconsin, the first convincing record was in 1972 in Ozaukee County in the east-central part of the state. The second record was in 1976 in the southeastern corner, but nesting was not confirmed until 1986 when a nest was found in Madison and recently fledged young were observed in Milwaukee. As in other states, the expansion moved rapidly with new counties added quickly after the first documented nesting. By the late 1980s, it was established over the southeastern half of the state (Robbins 1991).

In Minnesota, the first House Finch, a male, appeared in Hennepin County west of Minneapolis in 1980. The second record did not occur until three years later when another male appeared in north Minneapolis, followed closely by a female at Mankato in south-central Minnesota. Each of these records was from December (Janssen 1987). A steady increase in records continued until 1989 and 1990 when the number reported accelerated dramatically, especially in the southern half of the state (Janssen 1992). Minnesota's first nesting was confirmed in 1989 and by 1991, House Finches had been reported from all but seven counties in northern Minnesota (Janssen 1992).

WESTERN BIRDS MOVE EAST

While Iowa's House Finches came primarily from the east, there is evidence that western populations were moving east toward it as well. In South Dakota, the first record was in December 1966 in the unlikely location of Mitchell in the southeastern part of the state (South Dakota Ornithologists' Union 1991). Nesting was first reported both in eastern and western South Dakota in 1989. By 1990 it was considered resident roughly in the eastern half of the state and along the western border. The rapid expansion noted in 1990 in eastern South Dakota presumably came from the east (South Dakota Ornithologists' Union 1991).

Nebraska's experience with the House Finch is well documented. One was collected in Kimball County in the southwestern corner of the Panhandle in 1919, and in the 1920s, a small isolated population was established at North Platte in west-central Nebraska. By the early 1970s, it had been found or was established throughout the Panhandle. Consistent with the experience of its eastern counterparts, the western House Finch demonstrated jump dispersal in populating the state. Early reports came from the southeastern quarter of the state with birds at Adams County in 1968, Hall County in 1973, and Douglas County near Omaha in 1977. By 1993 the gap between the two populations had narrowed to a few counties in the eastern third of the state and today, it probably breeds throughout the state (unpublished data, W. R. Silcock).

While Kansas has had a breeding population in the southwestern part of the state for a number of years, that population began to move eastward in the 1970s. Expanding from its traditional range, it nested in Decatur County in northwestern Kansas in 1976 and Ellis County in west-central Kansas in 1979. By 1990, House Finches from the east had reached the eastern border of Kansas and presumably, the two populations met in the eastern third of the state in the early 1990s (Thompson and Ely 1992).

ARRIVAL IN IOWA

Iowa's first experiences with the House Finch were inconsistent with the experiences of a number of other states in the path of the expansion. Iowa's first three records were in summer, unlike other states where most of the first records were from late fall through early spring, suggesting a tendency to wander at those times. The other unlikely aspect of the state's early records is that the first verified state record was in 1982 in Perry in Dallas County in central Iowa, several hundred miles from known breeding areas at the time (Kent 1982a). A second male was identified in Ottumwa in Wapello County on 26 July, and a third male was tentatively identified in Pocahontas on 3 June (Kent 1982a). A fourth 1982 record was from September in Mason City (Kent 1982b). Each of Iowa's first four records were from roughly the central third of the state (See Figure 1). Consistent with the experience of other states, for the next few years there were only a few scattered records. In 1983, it was found in two more counties (Marshall and Scott, Kent 1983), and it was not reported anywhere in Iowa in 1984. The five records in 1985 included the first Christmas Bird Count reports, in Davenport and Oakville (Silcock 1986). Up to this time, observations of males outnumbered sightings of females by nine to two, although this may be attributable to the male's conspicuous plumage and song.

The year 1986 was pivotal in the movement of the House Finch into Iowa with a number of new county records added. Iowa's first documented House Finch

110 birds (Silcock 1989). Christmas Bird Count information for Des Moines has indicated similar increases. The first count in which the House Finch was found was in 1988, with 33 reported. Two years later, 161 were found. Today, the species is common throughout both the downtown and residential areas of the city, and the population probably numbers in the thousands.

Statewide, House Finches also showed a dramatic increase on Christmas Bird Counts. Starting in 1985 when single birds were reported on counts at Oakville and Davenport (Silcock 1986), the number reported on Christmas Bird Counts increased rapidly with almost 3,000 found in 1993. The number of counts on which House Finches were found increased from 2 in 1985 to 43 in 1994 when they were found on 98% of the counts (Table 1). A comparison of the number of House Finches and their congener, the Purple Finch, is also interesting. In the 1980s, the number of Purple Finches far exceeded the number of House Finches found on Christmas Bird Counts, but in 1991 House Finches exceeded Purple Finches for the first time and by 1994, almost seven times as many House Finches as Purple Finches were reported (Table 1). Although the number of Purple Finches varies greatly from year to year, being very high in years of winter finch invasions, by 1993, more House Finches were found on Iowa Christmas Bird Counts than the highest total of Purple Finches ever reported (Table 1).

Table 1. House Finches, Purple Finches, and House Sparrows on Christmas Bird Counts in Iowa, and percentage of participants reporting House Finches on Winter Bird Feeder Surveys, 1985-1994.

Year	No. of CBCs	No. of House Finches	% with House Finches	No. of Purple Finches	No. of House Sparrows	House Finches-Winter Bird Feeder Survey
1985	42	2	5	1,335	51,218	0.4
1986	41	3	5	472	43,888	0.3
1987	41	33	17	820	48,821	0.2
1988	42	215	33	676	63,605	1.0
1989	44	378	50	751	69,502	5.2
1990	42	762	67	935	58,199	7.5
1991	48	1,042	63	413	48,941	19.5
1992	42	2,024	90	461	38,964	27.3
1993	44	2,990	86	781	30,617	43.4
1994	43	2,952	98	314	32,506	38.5

A similar pattern is evident in the eastern United States. In 1973-74, House Finches were reported on 27% of all Christmas Bird Counts east of the Mississippi River; by 1983-94, the species was found on 88% of those counts (Table 2).

In addition to the increasing numbers of House Finches found on Christmas Bird Counts, there has been a similar increase in the number found on winter bird feeder counts taken in mid-January. By 1992, House Finches were reported on 43% of those counts (Table 1).

DISCUSSION

The dramatically rapid spread of the transplanted population of House Finches has attracted considerable attention of scientists in recent years. This has included studies of the potential evolution of the eastern populations, the effect of this species on other species in the East, and studying how the eastern populations have adapted to their new environment.

Table 2. Number of House Finches found on Christmas Bird Counts in states east of the Mississippi River, 1973-1994.

Year	No. CBCs	No. with House Finches	% with House Finches
1973-74	530	145	27.4
1983-84	670	398	59.4
1993-94	729	639	87.7

Based on a comparison of House Finches from the East with several populations of western House Finches, Aldrich and Weske (1978) concluded that the birds released on Long Island were derived from House Finches originally from California. They also noted that already, the eastern birds showed some evolutionary changes from the western birds. These changes included color changes as well as shorter wings, tails, tarsi, and toes, and longer bills than the California populations from which they originated. Presumably these changes were in response to the cooler and moister environment encountered in the East. Such changes may help explain the ability of the House Finch to survive as an introduced species when so many other introductions have failed.

One interesting adaptation of the eastern birds is that they have already developed a migratory pattern. In its new Eastern range, the House Finch is considered a partial migrant (Gauthreaux 1982), probably explaining not only its spread into new areas, but its likelihood of first being reported during winter while away from its established breeding grounds. House Finches in the Midwest already have established a migratory pattern with females tending to move further south than males (Belthoff and Gauthreaux 1991, Hamilton 1991). However, there is little evidence regarding migration of the Iowa House Finch population. The species becomes inconspicuous in fall after breeding, frequently giving the perception that the species has departed, but Christmas Bird Counts and winter bird feeder counts show the presence of large and rapidly growing numbers indeed occur in winter. Conversely, this may be explained by the bird's tendency to concentrate at feeders or in conifers, or the presence of northern birds.

Several workers have looked at the effect of the House Finch on other eastern birds. Much of the attention has focussed on its impact on the House Sparrow, another non-native species which occurs in the same urban habitats occupied by the House Finch. Most of the work done to date has looked at indirect evidence of this potential interaction. In the Northeast, declines in House Sparrow reported on Christmas Bird Counts are well correlated with increases in House Finch numbers (Kricher 1983) while results from another study suggest that the House Finch is having a negative effect on the House Sparrow in both summer and winter (Wootton 1987). Interestingly, no evidence was found for such effects on the Purple Finch in winter but there was evidence of displacement of that species in summer (Wootton 1987).

With all of this attention on the effects of this population explosion, the phenomenon of the range expansion itself is sometimes overlooked. The House Finch is now firmly established as part of Iowa's avifauna. In less than a decade, its status changed from unknown in Iowa to a regular species (Kent 1995). Numerically, its population has increased dramatically, and it now is a common species statewide in urban areas and many small towns although it is less abundant or absent in rural areas. The speed at which the House Finch colonized Iowa is unprecedented in recent ornithological history in Iowa. The spread of two other species through Iowa has been fairly well documented. European Starlings took about 13 years to occupy all of Iowa (DuMont 1945) while the Great-tailed Grackle had been found in 19 counties in its first decade in the state (Dinsmore and Dinsmore 1993). Obviously, the House Finch has colonized at a much faster rate.

The final question concerns the long-term future of this species in Iowa: will it continue to increase and eventually occupy rural areas or will its numbers stabilize or even decline? Although the House Finch showed a spectacular population growth on the East Coast, it suffered a substantial population decline in the winter of 1994-95, apparently due to disease. For Iowa, the answers to this and other questions will only come with time.

LITERATURE CITED

- Aldrich, J. W., and J. S. Weske. 1978. Origin and evolution of the Eastern House Finch population. *Auk* 95:528-536.
- Belthoff, J. R., and S. A. Gauthreaux, Jr. 1991. Partial migration and differential winter distribution of House Finches in the Eastern United States. *Condor* 93:374-382.
- Bohlen, H. D. 1989. The birds of Illinois. Indiana University Press, Bloomington.
- Dinsmore, S. J., and J. J. Dinsmore. 1993. Range expansion of Great-tailed Grackles in Iowa, 1983-92. *Iowa Bird Life* 63:85-89.
- Dinsmore, S. and P. C. Petersen 1986. First House Finches nesting in Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 56:122.
- DuMont, P. A. 1945. The invasion of the Starling into Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 15:30-33.
- Elliott, J.J., and R.S. Arbib, Jr. 1953. Origin and status of the House Finch in the Eastern United States. *Auk* 70:31-7.
- Franks, E. C. 1985. House Finch extends nesting range to western Illinois. *Illinois Birds and Birding* 1:76.

- Gauthreaux, S. A., Jr. 1982. The ecology and evolution of avian migration systems. Pp. 92-168. in *Avian Biology*, vol. 6 (D.S. Farner and J.R. King, eds.). Academic Press, New York and London.
- Goff, O. and W. Goff 1982. House Finches--Illinois' first successful nesting. *Illinois Audubon Bulletin* 202: 29-31
- Hamilton, T. R. 1991. Seasonal movement of House Finches in the Midwest. *North American Bird Bander* 16:119-122.
- Janssen, R. B. 1987. *Birds in Minnesota*. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis.
- Janssen, R. B. 1992. The House Finch in Minnesota. *Loon* 64:79-81.
- Kent, T. H. 1982a. Field Reports--summer 1982. *Iowa Bird Life* 52:87-96.
- Kent, T. H. 1982b. Field reports--fall 1982. *Iowa Bird Life* 52:117-127.
- Kent, T. H. 1983. Field reports. Spring 1983. *Iowa Bird Life* 53:47-57.
- Kent, T. H. 1995. Official checklist of Iowa birds 1995 edition. *Iowa Bird Life* 65: in press.
- Kricher, J. C. 1983. Correlation between House Finch increase and House Sparrow decline. *American Birds* 37:358-360.
- Mumford, R. E., and C. E. Keller. 1984. *The birds of Indiana*. Indiana University Press, Bloomington.
- Munding, S., and P. C. Hope 1982. Expansion of the winter range of the House Finch: 1947-79. *American Birds* 36:347-353.
- Peterjohn, B. G. 1989. *The birds of Ohio*. Indiana University Press, Bloomington.
- Robbins, M. B., and D. A. Easterla. 1992. *Birds of Missouri: Their Distribution and Abundance*. University of Missouri Press, Columbia.
- Robbins, S., Jr. 1991. *Wisconsin Birdlife. Population & Distribution. Past & present*. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison.
- Silcock, W. R. 1986. Christmas Bird Count 1985. *Iowa Bird Life* 56:17-27.
- Silcock, W. R. 1989. Field reports--winter 1988-1989. *Iowa Bird Life* 59:47-55.
- South Dakota Ornithologists' Union. 1991. *The Birds of South Dakota*. Second Ed. South Dakota Ornithologists' Union. Aberdeen, SD.
- Thomas, M. 1989. House Finches in a Des Moines yard. *Iowa Bird Life* 59: 104-105.
- Thompson, M. C., and C. Ely. 1992. *Birds in Kansas*. vol. 2. University of Kansas, Museum of Natural History, Lawrence.
- Wootton, J. T. 1987. Interspecific competition between introduced House Finch populations and two associated passerine species. *Oecologia* 71:325-331.

1315 41st Street, Des Moines, IA 50310 and 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014

FIELD REPORTS--SPRING 1995

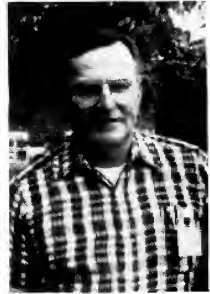
THOMAS H. KENT

WEATHER

March began with nine cold days, often below zero, and then was warm, with average monthly temperature 2.2 degrees above normal. Precipitation was above normal in the northwest and below normal in the southeast.

April was unusually cool and wet, with average temperature 4.0 degrees below normal and precipitation 1.7 inches above normal. The greatest rainfall was in the southeast, where planting was delayed. A snow storm hit northern Iowa, especially northwestern Iowa, on the 10th.

May was also cool and wet, with average temperature 3.1 degrees below normal and precipitation 2.0 inches above normal. The temperature rarely got to 80 in May, with a high of 84 on 16 May at Waterloo. Every year on record has had a higher temperature in May than this year's high. The heavy rainfall delayed planting in many areas, especially the southeast.



GENERAL TRENDS

The movement of waterfowl in March was relatively normal compared to the delayed movements of shorebirds and passerines in April and May. Noteworthy examples of the latter were the occurrence of Marbled Godwits and Solitary Vireos in late May. Shorebird habitat was good early in the season, but the heavy rains later flooded many of the areas with good mud flats. The passerine migration was generally delayed, but later weather fronts produced better concentrations than in the last few years.

The weather produced some large concentrations of birds. On 12 April, in extreme northwestern Iowa after a snow storm that covered the ground, an interesting mix of migrants flocked along the paved roads where the snow had melted. These included American Robin, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Vesper Sparrow, American Tree Sparrow, and Lapland Longspur, as well as the sought after Chestnut-collared Longspur. On 13 May, there was a widespread fallout of migrant passerines that can be attributed to the generally delayed early migration, a strong weather front, and the Spring Day Count that brought out many birders. On 28 May at A. A. Call S.P., a more isolated fallout was associated with a more selective involvement of species, predominantly Yellow-bellied and Least flycatchers and Red-eyed Vireos. Other observers also noted the good migrant traps for passerines in northwestern Iowa in late May.

Species that appeared in greater than usual numbers include Pied-billed Grebe, Trumpeter Swan (which ones are wild?), Cinnamon Teal, Northern Harrier, Black Tern, empidonax flycatchers (they were all over in late May), Cape May Warbler, and Great-tailed Grackle. Species were notable for their scarcity include: Little Blue Heron (no reports received), Western Grebe (1 report), Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (no reports), Yellow Rail (no reports), American Avocet (few reports), Buff-breasted Sandpiper (no reports), Black-billed and Yellow-billed cuckoos (very few), Purple Finch (a few singles), and Pine Siskin (very few).

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Accidental species reported were Glossy Ibis, Common Eider, Mississippi Kite, Ferruginous Hawk, Long-billed Curlew, Ruff, Laughing Gull, Fish Crow, Mountain Bluebird, Lazuli Bunting, Golden-crowned Sparrow, and Chestnut-collared Longspur.

Casual species reported were Red-throated Loon, White-faced Ibis, Whimbrel, Bewick's Wren, Townsend's Solitaire, Pine Grosbeak, and Eurasian Tree Sparrow. It should be noted that the status of some of these species will be changing shortly.

Other rare birds of note include Northern Goshawk, Prairie Falcon, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Varied Thrush, and Prairie Warbler.

SPECIES DATA (* = documented, [] = record dates)

Red-throated Loon: 1 in basic plumage was at Little Wall L. in Hamilton Co. from 22 to 24 Apr (*MPr, *BPr, *RRW, *JP, *THK).

Common Loon: First: 25 Mar at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). Last: 31 May at Mason City (RGo) and at Cardinal M. (DeC). High count: 21 on 28 Mar at Rathbun Res. (SJD). Other late birds were at Black Hawk L. on 23 May (JLF) and Swan L. in Carroll Co. on 29 May (RTh).

Pied-billed Grebe: First: 10 Mar at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). High count: 282 on 12 Apr at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). Other observers noted the large numbers at L. Manawa from 31 Mar to 13 Apr (SJD, THK). Another high count was 120 on 23 Apr at Pleasant Creek L. (CE).

Horned Grebe: First: 8 on 19 Mar at Cone M. (DCP). Last: 16 May at East Twin L. in Hancock Co. (SJD). High count: 16 on 25 Mar at Rathbun Res. (RLC). This species was reported from 14 other locations in all parts of the state.

Red-necked Grebe: All: 1 in basic plumage on 28 Mar at Rathbun Res. (SJD)[2nd earliest]; 18 Apr at Otter Creek M. (THK); 22 Apr at Little Wall L. (MPr); 23 Apr at Pleasant Creek L. (CE); 5 May at Anderson L. (JSi); and 13, 23 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK, THK, JLF).

Eared Grebe: First: 19 Mar at Cone M. (DCP). High count: 14 on 23 Apr at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). Others were reported from 17 locations including 6 in eastern Iowa.

Western Grebe: The only report was from 17 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

American White Pelican: First: 18 Mar at Riverton A. (THK) and Ottumwa (AMJ). High count: 1,000 on 6 Apr at Cone M. (PCP). Pelicans were everywhere, with many in eastern Iowa where they were not common only a few years ago. A few lingered to late May at many locations (THK).

Double-crested Cormorant: First: 25 Mar at Brown's L. (BFH) and L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). High counts: 1,000 on 22 Apr at Mud L. in Clay Co. (LAS); 950 at Coralville Res. on 20 Apr (CE).

American Bittern: First: 7 Apr at Zirbel Sl. (CJF). There were 10 other reports from 8 locations.

Least Bittern: All: 21 May at Tomahawk M. (JLF, THK); 23 May at State Line M. (JLF, THK); and 29 May at Errington M. in Polk Co. (BE).

Great Blue Heron: 40 nests (not all occupied) were counted at Rice L. on 4 Apr (CJF).

Great Egret: First: 28 Mar at L. Sugema in Van Buren Co. (SJD) and at Spirit L. (DHe). High count: 45 on 23 Apr at Otter Creek M. (CE).

Snowy Egret: All: 16 Apr at Port Neal in Woodbury Co. (BFH); 11 May at Blue L. (PE); and 31 May in SW Fremont Co. (BKP/LJP).

Cattle Egret: First: 10 on 15 Apr at Riverton A. (BKP/LJP). High count: 40 on 27 May in SW Fremont Co. (THK). There were reports from 9 other locations.

Green Heron: First: 22 Apr at Cone M. (AMJ).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: First: 13 Apr at Blue L. (THK). High count: 45 on 23 Apr at Otter Creek M. (CE).

Glossy Ibis: 2 were at Riverton A. on 18 May (*THK-photos, *JLF, *BKP/LJP), and 1 was there on 22 May (*WRS).

White-faced Ibis: In Fremont Co., 1 was at Riverton A. on 15 Apr (BKP/LJP)[record earliest]; 1 or 2 were at Riverton on 18-19 May (THK, JLF, BKP/LJP); and 1 was near Nebraska City on 31 May (THK). At Blue L., 7 were seen on 21 Apr (PE)[2nd earliest], 12 on 23 Apr (BFH), 9 on 25 Apr (*THK-photos), and 8 were still there on 11 May (SJD). Other reports were of 5 at Harrier M. in Boone Co. on 5 May (Laura Myers, Scott Peterson fide JJD) and 1 in NW Warren Co. on 14 May (*JSi). An unidentified ibis was at Black Hawk M. in Sac Co. on 1 May (Mike Mahn fide SJD).

Tundra Swan: First: 10 Mar at Bays Branch W.A. (SJD). Other reports, all in March, were from Buena Vista, Guthrie, Story, and Winneshiek counties.

Trumpeter Swan: Birds were reported from 11 locations, but some of these are sites where birds have been introduced such as Bays Branch W.A., Kettleston Hogsback A., sw of Webster City, and Mason City. Birds from known locations included 1 with yellow neck collar (80KN) from Wisconsin at Big Creek L. on 7, 11 Mar (SJD, MPr), 3 with neck collars from Minnesota at Bays Branch W.A. on 10 Mar (SJD), and 1 with orange patagial tag from Minnesota at L. Pahoja on 20 Mar (Marty Eby fide SJD). Apparently unmarked birds were reported from Mason City, Clear L., McCordis Pond, and Long Pond. The 2 birds that wintered at Black Hawk L. left on 12 Mar (RTh).

Mute Swan: A wintering first-year bird was still sw of Webster City on 15 Apr (MPr). A bird found at Hawarden on 17 Mar may have been the same bird that was at Rock Valley until 19 Apr (JV). An adult was in NW Marshall Co. on 21 Mar and 17 May (MPr). On 21 May, 3 adults were at Amana L. (DLD).

Greater White-fronted Goose: First: 10 on 4 Mar at Coralville Res. (CE). Last: 25 Apr with 10 at Riverton A. (THK) and 34 at Dunbar Sl. (RTh). High count: 200 on 11 Mar at Runnells A. (JSi).

Snow Goose: High count: 50,000 on 15 Mar at Hamburg (BKP/LJP). Lingered birds were seen in late May at Riverton A., Port Neal, Big Creek L., and Union Slough N.W.R.

Ross's Goose: A wintering bird remained sw of Webster City until 15 Apr (MPr). Last: 4 May at Ingham L. (DHe). High count: 65 on 18 Mar at Willow Sl. (SJD). Birds were reported from 10 locations.

Canada Goose: High count: 5,300 on 11 Mar at Saylorville Res. (BE).

Green-winged Teal: High count: 3,000 at Riverton A. on 19 Mar (THK).

American Black Duck: 1 to 3 birds found by one observer at 7 central and western Iowa locations were considered more than usual (SJD).

Northern Pintail: High count: 1,709 on 11 Mar at Saylorville Res. (BE).

Blue-winged Teal: First: 11 Mar at Cone M. (CE).

Cinnamon Teal: All (males): 18 Mar at Riverton A. (SJD); 20 Mar to 16 Apr at Runnells A. (JSi); 25 to 26 Mar at Sandhill L. in Woodbury Co. (BFH); 2 to 6 Apr at Carroll (MTh, RTh); 3 Apr at Ames (Mike Meetz fide SJD); 8 Apr at Rathbun Res. (SJD); and 22 Apr in Palo Alto Co. (LAS, HWW). A hybrid was reported at Blue L. on 24 Apr (BFH).

Northern Shoveler: High count: 565 on 5 Apr at Terra L. in Johnston (BE).

Gadwall: High count: 150 on 22 Apr at Dewey's Pasture (LAS).

American Wigeon: High count: 58 on 2 Apr at Sandhill L. in Woodbury Co. (BFH).

Canvasback: High count: 3,000 in late Mar at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Redhead: High count: 50 on 2 Apr at Sandhill L. in Woodbury Co. (BFH).

Greater Scaup: First: 3 on 11 Mar at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). Last: 11 May at Pool 13 in Clinton Co. (PCP). High count: 5 on 2 Apr at Pleasant Creek L. (CE). There were reports from 5 other locations.

Common Eider: The female reported this winter from Red Rock Res. was last noted on 7 Apr (LAS). A female, perhaps the same one, was reported at Saylorville Res. on 26 Mar (*AMJ).

Oldsquaw: All: 18 Mar (BE) and 2 Apr (Gordon Brown fide SJD) at Saylorville Res.; 26 Apr at Mark Twain N.W.R. in Louisa Co. (*JQ); and 29 Apr at Cone M. (THK).

Common Goldeneye: High count: 400 on 11 Mar at Rathbun Res. (RLC).

Bufflehead: High count: 40 at Carlisle on 5 Apr (JSi) and at Amana L. on 24 Apr (CE). Bill Huser came close with 39 at Port Neal on 2 Apr.

Hooded Merganser: High count: 25 at Davenport on 2 Mar (PCP).

Common Merganser: High count: 2,000 on 1 Mar at Red Rock Res. (THK).

Red-breasted Merganser: First: 14 Mar at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). Last: 29 May at Midwest Power Ponds (BKP/LJP). High count: 150 on 1 Apr at L. Macbride (CE).

Ruddy Duck: First: 12 Mar at Port Neal (BFH). High count: 831 on 31 Mar at L. Manawa (SJD).

Turkey Vulture: First: 11 Mar in Lee Co. (RLC).

Osprey: First: 27 Mar at L. Macbride (JDa). Last: 18 May in Ringgold Co. (THK).

Mississippi Kite: A pair, first found on 12 May by Jane Clark, returned to the Des Moines area at Windsor Heights not far from the location in Clive where birds have been in recent years (*PHA/RIA, THK-photo, *CE).

Bald Eagle: High count: 64 at Coralville Res. on 4 Mar (CE). A nest was found in Sac Co. (MTh, RTh).

Northern Harrier: Although difficult to substantiate from the data submitted, this species appeared more common than unusual (THK). Late May sightings that suggest nesting were reported from Dickinson, Palo Alto, Kossuth, and Johnson counties.

Cooper's Hawk: A nest was found in Warren Co. on 16 Apr (JSi).

Northern Goshawk: 1 was seen in Lucas Co. on 11 Mar (AMJ).

Red-shouldered Hawk: There were reports from Benton, Cerro Gordo, Clay, Fremont, Johnson, Kossuth, Scott, and Warren counties from 11 Mar to 29 May.

Broad-winged Hawk: High count: 40 on 29 Apr at Carroll (RTh).

Swainson's Hawk: First: 13 Apr in Mills and Fremont counties (THK, BKP/LJP). High count: 8 on 13 and 22 Apr in Fremont Co. (BKP/LJP, JSi). A pair were nesting s. of Allendorf in Osceola Co. for the 18th year in a row (DBi). Other reports were from Butler, Plymouth, and Story counties.

Red-tailed Hawk: The Padelfords counted 413 in 2.75 hours at Waubonsie S.P. on 15 Mar. The highest number that they have had for an entire day at their fall hawkwatch is 80.

Ferruginous Hawk: A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

Rough-legged Hawk: Last: 1 May e. of Tama (MPr).

Golden Eagle: An immature was in SW Fremont Co. on 15 Apr (BKP/LJP-details).

American Kestrel: This species has become so common that no one reports it anymore.

Merlin: First: 14 Mar w. of Riverton (SJD). Last: 21 May at Tomahawk M. (JLF, THK)[record latest]. Another late bird was at Union Slough N.W.R on 17 May (MCK)[3rd latest]. Other reports include 3 from March, 4 from April, and 2 from May.

Peregrine Falcon: First: 30 Mar at Cedar Rapids (JLF) and 31 Mar at Riverton A. (SJD). Last: 29 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). Other reports include 4 from April and 7 from May.

Prairie Falcon: All: 3 Mar in E Pottawattamie Co. (*THK, JLF); 5 Mar in Jasper Co. (BFH); 14 Mar in SW Fremont Co. (SJD); 16 Apr in Guthrie Co. (*RRW); and 19 Apr in NW Woodbury Co. (BFH). The dark axillaries were seen on all birds.

Gray Partridge: There were reports from 14 counties. All were north of I-80 except for birds in Johnson (JLF) and Fremont (*SM) counties. The opinions of two northwest Iowa birders may both be correct: "hard to find" (DBi) and "more numerous than in the past few years" (DCH).

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Birders should be aware that 69 were released in Monona Co. (Ed Weiner fide JJD).

Northern Bobwhite: Unusual was 1 in a yard in Sioux Center (JV).

Virginia Rail: First: 22 Apr at Dewey's Pasture (JJD). Others were reported from 6 locations.

Sora: First: 4 Apr at Errington M. (SJD). On 26 Apr, 1 perched on a window ledge in Cedar Rapids during a heavy rain (DLD).

Common Moorhen: All: 22 Apr, 7 May at Blue L. (BFH); 11 May at Green Is. (PCP); 11 May at Goose L. in Clinton Co. (PCP); 11, 24 May at Anderson L. (PHA/RIA, THK, JLF); 13 May at Fish Farms Ponds in Allamakee Co. (FL), 13 May at Cone M. (PCP); and 29 May in Dickinson Co. (ETH).

American Coot: First: 2 Mar at Blue L. (THK). High count: 5,000 in W Woodbury Co. on 26 Mar (BFH), in SW Iowa on 28 Mar (THK), and in NW Iowa on 11 Apr (THK). Coots are always common, but they were particularly evident this year.

Sandhill Crane: All: 1 at Amana L. on 13 Mar (CE); 2 to 7 at Otter Creek M. on 17, 26 Mar and 18, 23 Apr (m.ob.); 1 at Forney L. on 31 Mar (SJD) and mid-May (Carl Priebe fide JJD); 1 at Tomahawk M. on 6 May (PE); 2 at Big M. on 10 May (MPr); and 3 at Goose L. in Clinton Co. on 11 May (PCP).

Black-bellied Plover: First: 2 on 7 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (CRN). Last: 3 on 27 May at Riverton A. (THK). High counts: 28 on 19 May at Black Hawk L. (HZ) and 20 in Ringgold Co. on 18 May (THK, JLF).

American Golden-Plover: First: 10 on 13 Apr at Riverton A. (THK). Last and high count: 220 on 25 May in Kossuth Co. (MCK).

Semipalmated Plover: First: 22 Apr at Mark Twain N.W.R. in Louisa Co. (AMJ). Last: 29 May in Palo Alto Co. (MCK). High count: 15 on 7 May at Sweet M. (MPr).

Piping Plover: The first of many sightings at Midwest Power Ponds was on 16 Apr (PHA/RIA). At Port Neal, the other regular location for this species, 6 were seen on 20 May (m.ob.).

Killdeer: High count: 1,000 on 12 Apr in Sioux and Lyon counties on the roads after a snow storm. The number is an estimate, but 341 were counted with a counter during the last third of the day.

American Avocet: All: 1 on 16 Apr and 3 on 17 Apr at Port Neal (BFH); 1 on 22 Apr at Twelve Mile L. in Union Co. (RTh); and 1 on 11 May at Engeldinger M. in Polk Co. (PHA/RIA-photo).

Greater Yellowlegs: First: 18 Mar at Riverton A. (SJD, THK). Last: 24 May at Zirbel Sl. (THK, JLF).

Lesser Yellowlegs: First: 18 Mar at Riverton A. (SJD, THK). High count: 94 at Colo Ponds on 15 Apr (HZ).

Solitary Sandpiper: First: 30 Apr at Decorah (DeC). Last: 21 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC). Few were reported.

Willet: First: 7 on 16 Apr at L. Anita (RTh). Last: 1 on 21 May at Black Hawk L. (m.ob.). From 1 to 3 were reported from 9 other locations.

Upland Sandpiper: First: 14 Apr at Ringgold W.A. (THK). Reports were from 5 other counties, but this species is usually under reported.

Whimbrel: All: 2 were n. of Bartlett in Mills Co. on 16 May (BKP/LJP-details), and 1 was in NC Hamilton Co. on 24 May (*THK, *JLF). Both sightings were of birds in flooded fields.

Long-billed Curlew: Peter Emzen "cleaned up" after the spring I.O.U. meeting by finding this species at Black Hawk L. with Marbled Godwits (*PE) -- a well-deserved reward for hosting the meeting.

Hudsonian Godwit: First and high count: 40 at Riverton A. on 15 Apr (BKP/LJP, MTh, RTh). Last: 22 May in Dickinson Co. (ETH). From 1 to 9 were noted at 5 other locations.

Marbled Godwit: First: 7 on 13 Apr at Riverton A. (BKP/LJP, THK). Last: 8 on 31 May at Midwest Power Ponds (BKP/LJP-details)[record latest]. High count: 19 at Blue L. on 21 Apr (PE). Other May dates include 1 to 6 birds at Black Hawk L. from 19 to 22 May and 2 in Palo Alto Co. on 20 May (MCK). These late May dates are quite unusual for this species.

Ruddy Turnstone: All: 5 at sod farm in Scott Co. on 11 May (DCD); 6 on 18 May in Ringgold Co. (THK, JLF), 2 from 19 to 21 May at Black Hawk L. (m.ob.); 2 on 20 May at Port Neal (m.ob.); and 6 on 27 May at Riverton A. (THK).

Sanderling: First: 6 May at Cardinal M. (DeC). Last: 29 May at Big M. (MPR). High count: 20 on 20 May at Black Hawk L. (THK).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: High count: 75 at Zirbel Sl. on 24 May (THK).

Western Sandpiper: All: 2 (alt. and partial alt.) on 22 Apr at Riverton A. (SJD-details)[3rd earliest]; 2 on 13 May at Zirbel Sl. (CRN-details); and 2 alt. on 20-21 May at Black Hawk L. (THK, JLF, RTh).

Least Sandpiper: First: 1 on 1 Apr at Riverton A. (THK). Last: 2 on 25 May at Cardinal M. (DeC). High count: 92 on 12 May at Cardinal M. (DeC).

White-rumped Sandpiper: First: 1 on 28 Apr at Blue L. (PE).

Baird's Sandpiper: First: 18 Mar at Riverton A. (SJD). Last: 2 on 31 May at Midwest Power Ponds (BKP/LJP). High count: 30 on 26 Mar at Blue L. (BFH).

Pectoral Sandpiper: First: 18 Mar at Riverton A. (SJD, THK). High count: 200 on 5 Apr at Cone M. (THK) and 8 Apr at Coralville Res. (THK).

Dunlin: First: 4 on 8 Apr in Polk Co. (PHA/RIA-details)[2nd earliest]. Last: 5 on 30 May at Black Hawk L. (RTh). High count: 71 on 22 May at Black Hawk L. (PE).

Stilt Sandpiper: First: 1 in basic plumage on 22 Apr at Riverton A. (SJD)[ties 3rd earliest]. Last: 24 May at Hickory Grove P. (MPR).

Ruff: A female discovered by Tim Schantz on 31 Mar at Riverton A. was seen by others on 1 Apr (*JLF, *WRS, *THK). Another was seen on 22 Apr 2 miles w. of Mt. Ayr in Ringgold Co. (*JSi).

Short-billed Dowitcher: First: 10 mostly in alt. plumage on 28 Apr in Clinton Co. (THK). Last: 22 May at Otter Creek M. (DLD).

Long-billed Dowitcher: First: 2 on 27 Mar at Blue L. (THK).

Common Snipe: High count: 150 on 5 Apr at Cone M. (THK). On 12 Apr, 70 were noted on roads in Sioux and Lyon counties after a snow storm.

American Woodcock: First: 13 Mar at Riverton A. (SJD).

Wilson's Phalarope: First: 1 Apr at Riverton A. (THK)[3rd earliest]. High count: 10 at Riverton A. on 5 May (THK).

Red-necked Phalarope: All: 6 on 14 May s. of Collins in Story Co. (HZ), and 1 on 20-21 May at Black Hawk L. (m.ob.).

Laughing Gull: An adult found below the Saylorville Res. dam on 10 May by Gordon Brown was seen by others on 11 May (*PHA/RIA), *THK-photos).

Franklin's Gull: First: 27 Mar at Saylorville Res. (SJD) and L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). Last and high count: 210 on 31 May at Midwest Power Ponds (BKP/LJP).

Bonaparte's Gull: First: 21 Mar at Big Creek L. (SJD). Last: 28 May in Dickinson Co. (LAS). High count: 114 on 8 Apr at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

Ring-billed Gull: High counts: 5,000 on 8 Apr at Saylorville Res. (SJD), 4,000 on 14 Mar at Sabula (DCD), and 3,000 on 11 Apr at the Dickinson Co. landfill (SJD).

Herring Gull: Last: 2 imm. on 28 May in Dickinson Co (LAS).

Caspian Tern: First: 4 on 13 May at Davenport (DCD). High count: 74 on 16 May at Elm L. (SJD). Many were seen at widely scattered locations in the last half of May.

Common Tern: All (including details): 6 May at Lost Island L. (LAS); 15 May at Saylorville Res. (SJD); 16 May at Morse L. in Wright Co. (SJD); 20 May at Black Hawk L. (LAS); 23 May at Trumbull L. (THK, JLF); and 28 May at Ventura M. (CRN).

Forster's Tern: First: 7 Apr at Red Rock Res. (LAS)[ties record earliest]. High count: 30 on 23 May at Trumbull L. (THK).

Least Tern: All: 2 on 27 May and 4 on 29 May at Midwest Power Ponds (THK, BKP/LJP); and 1 on 28 May at Ventura M. (CRN).

Black Tern: First: 2 on 29 Apr at L. Sugema in Van Buren Co. (AMJ, DCD)[ties 2nd earliest]. High count: 450 on 14 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). From 14 to 23 May, large numbers of Black

Terns were present on most marshes and large bodies of water as reported by many observers and seen by me. I cannot remember seeing this many in the past.

Black-billed Cuckoo: The only report was on 14 May at Coralville Res. (DLD).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: First: 13 May at Holst F. (PHA/RIA). Only 2 others were reported.

Barn Owl: 3 nests were present at the Zeibert Freemyer farm e. of Bedford in Taylor Co. On 18 May, 8 young were in one nest and 8 eggs in another (JLF). The third nest was found later.

Long-eared Owl: All: 2 on 4 Mar in N Marshall Co. (MPR); 1 on 30 Mar in Cherokee Co. (DBI), and 1 on 28 Apr in Liscomb (MPR).

Short-eared Owl: A nest with 9 eggs was found on 12 May near Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). Other late birds that could be nesting were in Palo Alto Co. on 6 May (LAS) and Coralville Res. on 28 Apr (THK).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: 1 was still in N Marshall Co. on 4 Mar (MPR).

Common Nighthawk: First: 9 May at Fairfield (DCP) and Moorehead P. (PE).

Chuck-will's-widow: All: 11 May e. of Wildcat Den S.P. (PCP); 12, 18 May near Waubonsie S.P. (SJD, THK, JLF); and 13 May at Big Sand Mound Preserve (PCP).

Chimney Swift: First: 14 Apr at Fairfield (DCP) and Lamoni (THK).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: First: 29 Apr at Croton U. (CE).

Red-headed Woodpecker: 40 were noted at Rathbun Res. on 16 Apr (RLC).

Northern Flicker: 32 were migrating in NW Iowa on 27 Mar (THK).

Pileated Woodpecker: 2 on 13 May at Wanata S.P. in Clay Co. (M. Olson fide LAS) were a long way from the usual range. More easterly reports were from Marshall and Bremer counties.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: First: 8 May at Kettleson Hogsback A. (ETh). Last: 29 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (CE).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: First: 8 May at Fairfield (DCP).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: First: 11 May at Coralville Res. (THK). Last: 28 May at Moorehead P. (PE). High count: 40 on 28 May at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK).

Acadian Flycatcher: First: 9 May at Croton Unit (JLF). Other locations were Wildcat Den S.P. (CE), Maquoketa Caves S.P. (CE), Preparation Canyon S.P. (JSi), n. of Stone City (CE), and Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (CE).

Alder Flycatcher: First: 13 May at Amana Woods (JLF)[ties 3rd earliest]. Last: 29 May at Big M. (MPR).

Least Flycatcher: First: 6 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC). High count: 100 on 28 May at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK). Others reported seeing more small flycatchers than usual, especially in late May.

Eastern Phoebe: First: 15 Mar at Waubonsie S.P. (BKP/LJP)[ties record earliest].

Great Crested Flycatcher: First: 29 Apr at Croton Unit (CE).

Western Kingbird: First: 10 May at Kettleson Hogsback A. (DCH). The most easterly records were from Boone Co. on 21 May (SRL), Ventura M. on 28 May (CRN), and the state capitol grounds, where nest building was observed on 29 May (PHA/RIA).

Eastern Kingbird: First: 27 Apr at Mark Twain N.W.R. (JLF).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: 1 was reported on 6 May at Blue Wing M. in Palo Alto Co. (M. Olson fide LAS).

Purple Martin: First: 6 Apr at Lake City (DS).

Tree Swallow: First: 2 on 18 Mar at Riverton A. (SJD)[ties 3rd earliest].

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: First: 2 on 8 Apr at Colyn W.A. in Lucas Co. (SJD).

Bank Swallow: First: 16 Apr at Swan L. in Johnson Co. (THK).

Cliff Swallow: First: 16 Apr at Swan L. in Johnson Co. (THK)[record earliest].

Barn Swallow: First: 12 Apr w. of Boone (SJD).

Blue Jay: 5 flocks were migrating in Lyon Co. on 6 May (JSi).

American Crow: At Ames, the roost numbers were down to 150 by 7 Apr. (JJD).

Fish Crow: Reports will be referred to the Records Committee.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: All: 3 on 8 Apr at Yellow River F. (CE), 1 on 28 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JLF), and 1 on 11, 13 May at Holst F. (Gordon Brown fide SJD, PHA/RIA).

Brown Creeper: Last: 2 May in Bacon Creek P. in Woodbury Co. (BFH).

Carolina Wren: 1 near Plymouth in Cerro Gordo Co. on 6 May (CRN) was the most out on range.

Bewick's Wren: All: 2 were near Croton Unit in Lee Co. on 23 Apr (THK, RIC), and a nest was in a farm building in SE Iowa Co. on 29 Apr (JLF).

House Wren: First: 19 Apr in Warren Co. (AMJ).

Winter Wren: Last: 2 May at Grammer Grove (MPR). High count: 6 on 28 Mar, 15 Apr at Croton Unit (RIC, CE).

Sedge Wren: First: 4 on 26 Apr at Mark Twain N.W.R. in Louisa Co. (JLF)[ties 3rd earliest].

Marsh Wren: First: 2 on 22 Apr at Mark Twain N.W.R. in Louisa Co. (AMJ).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: High count: 24 on 9 Apr at L. Macbride (DLD).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: First: 28 Mar at Geode S.P. (SJD). High count: 30 on 23 Apr in Lee and Van Buren counties (THK).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: First: 15 Apr in Warren Co. (AMJ). High count: 23 on 13 May in Allamakee Co. (FL).

Eastern Bluebird: Dick Bierman had 93 in nest boxes in Cherokee Co. on 30 May.

Mountain Bluebird: 2 males were at Kettleson Hogsback A. on 24 Mar (*ETH).

Townsend's Solitaire: 1 was found at L. Anita on 18 Mar (*MTh, *ETH) and was last seen on 20 Mar (THK, RIC).

Veery: First: 10 May at Grammer Grove (MPPr) and Mason City (RGo).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: First: 7 May at Cedar Bend P. in Bremer Co. (MPPr).

Swainson's Thrush: First: 3 May at Grammer Grove (MPPr). High count: 60 on 22 May at Rock River Access in Sioux Co. (THK). This species was found at almost every location that I visited in late May (THK).

Hermit Thrush: First: 3 Apr at Mason City (RGo). Last: 11 May at Peterson Pits in Story Co. (*MPPr)[2nd latest]. Others were seen in early May with the latest on 4 May at Coralville Res. (JLF, THK) and on 5 May at Gammer Grove W.A. (BPr). High counts: 25 on 26 Apr at Moorehead P. (PE) and 20 on 27 Apr at Hickory Hill P. (THK). The peak migration was late this year, and the reports from May were unusual.

Wood Thrush: First: 6 May at Shimek F. in Lee Co. (MPPr).

American Robin: 3,000 were on the roads on 12 Apr in Sioux and Lyon counties after a snow storm (THK).

Varied Thrush: The bird first seen at Wellman in Washington Co. on 18 Jan (AJY) was last seen on 8 Mar (Eury and Barbara Henderson fide AJY).

Gray Catbird: First: 4 May at Grammer Grove (MPPr).

Northern Mockingbird: Birds were reported from Appanoose, Johnson, and Muscatine counties.

Brown Thrasher: First: 28 Mar at Willow Sl. (THK).

American Pipit: First: 2 on 18 Mar at Riverton A. (SJD). Last: 4 on 23 Apr in SE Johnson Co. (DLD). High count: 25 on 16 Apr in Clay Co. (LAS).

Northern Shrike: All: 3 Mar at L. Anita (THK), and 24 Mar in Emmet Co. (DHe).

Loggerhead Shrike: A nest with 4 eggs was found in NW Cass Co. on 31 May (MAP).

White-eyed Vireo: First: 24 Apr at Croton Unit (THK, RIC). The only other location reported was Huron Is. in Des Moines Co. on 16 May (PCP).

Bell's Vireo: 1 at Cardinal M. on 24 May was considered unusual (DeC).

Solitary Vireo: First: 15 Apr in NW Cass Co. (MAP). Last: 30 May near Spencer (THK), at Algona (MCK), and at Des Moines (BE)[all 2nd latest]. Birds were reported at 8 locations between 23 and 30 May, which is unusual for this early migrant. The early date was separated by 3 weeks from the next report.

Yellow-throated Vireo: First: 29 Apr at Croton Unit (CE).

Warbling Vireo: First: 29 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Philadelphia Vireo: First: 10 May at Mason City (CJF). Last: 27 May n. of Iowa City (JLF). High count: 6 on 17 May at Grammer Grove (MPPr).

Red-eyed Vireo: First: 6 May at Shimek F. (MPPr) and Fairfield (DCP). High count: 80 on 28 May at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK).

Blue-winged Warbler: First: 6 on 29 Apr at Croton Unit (CE). A Lawrence's hybrid was near Cedar Bluff in Cedar Co. on 13 May (*CAT).

Golden-winged Warbler: First: 9 May at Mason City (RGo, CRN). Last: 20 May at Moorehead P. (PE). High count: 5 on 14 May at Dudgeon L. (CE).

Tennessee Warbler: First: 4 May at Waubonsie S.P. (SJD). Last: 31 May n. of Iowa City (JLF). High count: 30 on 23 May at Trumbull L. (THK).

Orange-crowned Warbler: First: 15 Apr in Warren Co. (AMJ-details)[ties record earliest]. Last: 21 May at Tomahawk M. (JLF)[3rd latest]. High count: 10 on 9 May at Moorehead P. (PE).

Nashville Warbler: First: 3 May at Grammer Grove (MPPr). Last: 28 May at Moorehead P. (PE). High count: 10 on 13 May in Appanoose (RLC) and Cerro Gordo (CRN) counties.

Northern Parula: First: 23 Apr at Croton Unit (THK).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: High count: 16 on 13 May at Hanging Rock Woods in Johnson Co. (CE).

Magnolia Warbler: Last: 30 May near Spencer (THK). High count: 10 on 10 May at Coralville Res. (CE).

Cape May Warbler: First: 5 May at Grammer Grove (MPPr). Last: 20 May at Moorehead P. (PE). High count: 9 on 11 May in Scott and Muscatine counties (PCP). There were reports from 15 locations, which is more than usual.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: All: 6 May at Ledges S.P. (Gordon Brown fide SJD)[ties record earliest]; 8 May at Spirit Lake (ETH); 10 May at Mason City (CJF); 11 May at Coon Creek A. in Winneshiek Co. (DeC); and 14 May at Coralville Res. (DLD).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: First: 5 Apr near Cone M. (THK). Last: 23 May at Trumbull L. (THK). High count: 300 on 6 May at Huston P. in Palo Alto Co. (LAS).

Black-throated Green Warbler: First: 27 Apr at Iowa City (THK, JLF). High count: 7 on 13 May at Hanging Rock Woods (CE).

Blackburnian Warbler: First: 9 May at Pine L. (MPr). Last: 28 May at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK). High count: 8 on 14 May at Ledges S.P. (SJD).

Yellow-throated Warbler: First: 23 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (THK). Other locations for this species were Ledges S. P. on 11 May (MPr), below the dam at Saylorville Res. on 13 May (BE), Mark Twain N.W.R. in Louisa Co. on 16 May (CE), and W Lee Co. on 29 May (CE).

Pine Warbler: All: 27 Apr at Iowa City (THK); 27 Apr at Davenport (PCP); 29 Apr at Carroll (RTh); 30 Apr at Swede Point P. in Boone Co. (Gordon Brown fide SJD); 30 Apr at Davenport (PCP); 4 May at Coralville Res. (JLF, THK); 11 May at Moorehead P. (PE); and 13 May at Amana Woods (JLF, THK).

Prairie Warbler: 1 was out of range and early in NW Carroll Co. on 30 Apr (*MTh, RTh)[record earliest]. The only other report was from L. Macbride on 17 May (CE, THK, JLF).

Palm Warbler: First: 20 Apr at Diamond L. (MPr)[ties 2nd earliest]. Last: 15 May in Warren Co. (JSi). High count: 40 on 6 May at Dudgeon L. (CE).

Bay-breasted Warbler: First: 2 on 10 May at Coralville Res. (CE). Last: 1 on 23 May at Bacon Creek P. in Woodbury Co. (BFH). High count: 6 on 13 May at Amana Woods (JLF).

Blackpoll Warbler: First: 3 May at Grammer Grove (MPr). Last: 30 May at Moorehead P. (PE). High count: 16 on 13 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Cerulean Warbler: First: 3 on 29 Apr at Croton Unit (CE). Northern and westerly birds were at Mason City on 9 and 28 May (CRN, RGo), Swan L. in Carroll Co. on 9 May (MTh, RTh), and Moorehead P. on 14, 15, 20 May (PE).

Black-and-white Warbler: First: 2 May at Grammer Grove (BPr).

American Redstart: High count: 19 on 10 May at Decorah (DeC).

Prothonotary Warbler: First: 7 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (DCP).

Worm-eating Warbler: First: 2 on 29 Apr at Croton Unit (RIC, CE). Other locations were Klum L. in Louisa Co. on 13 May (PCP), Hanging Rock Woods in Johnson Co. on 13 May (CE), Saylorville Res. on 13 May (BE), and Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 29 May (CE).

Ovenbird: First: 23 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (THK). High count: 25 on 15 May at Mid-Prairie P. in Carroll Co. (RTh). Doug Harr noted many more than usual in northwestern Iowa.

Northern Waterthrush: First: 2 May at Pine L. (MPr). High count: 20 on 10 May at Black Hawk W.A. in Sac Co. (RTh).

Louisiana Waterthrush: First: 6 Apr at Ledges S.P. (SJD). Birds away from the usual eastern and central locations included 2 in Stephen's F. in Lucas Co. on 8 Apr (SJD), 1 n. of Thurman in Fremont Co. on 5 May (SJD), 1 at Sandhill L. in Woodbury Co. on 13 May (BFH), and 1 at Moorehead P. in Ida Co. on 13 May (PE).

Kentucky Warbler: First: 6 May at Shimek F. (MPr).

Connecticut Warbler: First: 11 May at Wildcat Den S.P. (PCP). Last: 29 May at Big M. (MPr) and Wanata S.P. in Clay Co. (LAS). Single birds were found at 8 locations.

Mourning Warbler: First: 13 May at Grammer Grove (MPr). Last and high count: 16 on 29 May in O'Brien and Clay counties (LAS).

Common Yellowthroat: First: 29 Apr at Hickory Hill P. (THK).

Hooded Warbler: All: 24 Apr to 9 May at Croton Unit (m.ob.); 5 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JLF); 13 May at Effigy Mounds N.M. (DeC, FL); and 29 May at Wanata S.P. in Clay Co. (LAS). The latter was far out of the normal range.

Wilson's Warbler: First: 10 May at Grammer Grove (MPr). Last: 31 May at Liscomb (MPr)[2nd latest]. Also late, 30 May near Spencer (THK)[ties 3rd latest]. There were 5 other reports from 25 May or later.

Canada Warbler: First: 13 May at Hanging Rock Woods (CE). Last: 30 May at Moorehead P. (PE). High count: 6 on 29 May at Trumbull L. (LAS).

Yellow-breasted Chat: All: 19 Apr at a bird bath in Lake City in Calhoun Co. (DS-details)[record earliest by 9 days]; 10 May at Black Hawk W.A. in Sac Co. (RTh); 12 May at Cone M. (THK); 13 May at Buena Vista A. in Scott Co. (DCD); and 29 May in W Lee Co. (CE).

Summer Tanager: All: 6 to 29 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (RLC, m.ob.); and a female on 11 May at Big Sand Mounds Preserve in Louisa Co. (PCP).

Scarlet Tanager: First: 29 Apr at Croton Unit. (CE). In the north and west, migrants were noted in Carroll, Cerro Gordo, Cherokee, and Sioux counties.

Northern Cardinal: Several pairs remain in Sioux Center (JV).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: First: 29 Apr at Croton Unit (CE).

Blue Grosbeak: All reports were from usual western Iowa locations except for 1 w. of Buffalo in Scott Co. (fide PCP).

Lazuli Bunting: Russ and Ellen Heine discovered a male in the yard of their rural farmstead sw. of Spencer on 28 May, and it was seen by a number of observers through 29 May (*LAS, *HWW).

Indigo Bunting: First: 2 May at Croton Unit (MPR).

Rufous-sided Towhee: Birds of the spotted race were found in Fremont Co. at Riverton A. on 19 Mar (RIC, THK) and n. of Thurman on 4 May (SJD). Otherwise, the first was at Fairfield on 7 Apr (DCP).

American Tree Sparrow: Last: 1 singing at Muskrat Sl. on 28 Apr (THK), and 1 seen on 29 Apr at Cone M. (THK). High count: 2,000 on 12 Apr on the roads in Sioux and Lyon counties.

Clay-colored Sparrow: First: 29 Apr at a feeder in Mason City (RGo). A bird singing at L. Pahoja on 22 May could be nesting (JLF, THK). The only reports from eastern and central Iowa were from Butler, Cerro Gordo, and Story counties.

Field Sparrow: First: 29 Mar at Cone M. (THK).

Vesper Sparrow: First: 29 Mar in Johnson Co. (THK). High count: 100 (or more) on 12 Apr on roads in Sioux and Lyon counties after snow storm (THK).

Lark Sparrow: First: 19 Apr in Warren Co. (AMJ).

Savannah Sparrow: First: 2 on 18 Mar at Riverton A. (SJD).

Grasshopper Sparrow: First: 30 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Henslow's Sparrow: The only reports were from the usual location near Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., with the first on 23 Apr (RIC, THK).

Le Conte's Sparrow: First: 1 on 1 Apr at Secret L. in Fremont Co. was found by Tim Schantz (THK). Another was at Errington M. in Story Co. on 4 Apr (SJD). Last: 1 on 23 May at State Line M. in Kossuth Co. (JLF, THK)[record latest]. Could this species nest in Iowa?

Sharp-tailed Sparrow: All: 20 May at Sandhill L. in Woodbury Co. (BFH, LAS, MPR); and 21, 24 May at Tomahawk M. (THK, RTh, PE).

Fox Sparrow: First: 14 Mar at Fairfield (DCP) and Allamakee Co. (FL). Last: 21 Apr at Sioux Center (JV).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Last: 30 May at Russ and Ellen Heine's farmstead sw. of Spencer (THK)[ties 2nd latest].

Swamp Sparrow: High count: 20 on 27 Apr at Hickory Hill P. (THK).

White-throated Sparrow: Last: 24 May in Polk Co. (MPR). High count: 150 on 30 Apr at Coralville Res. (THK).

Golden-crowned Sparrow: Three arrived with White-throated Sparrows the first week of May at a rural feeder east of Little Wall L. in Hamilton Co. and stayed for about two weeks (*DW-photos).

White-crowned Sparrow: High count: 40 on 29 Mar at Cone M. (THK). Many more than usual were seen at multiple locations in eastern Iowa (THK).

Harris's Sparrow: Last: 22 May at Oak Grove P. in Sioux Co. (THK). High count: 15 at Riverton A. on 19 Mar (THK). In eastern Iowa, birds were seen at Coralville Res. on 11, 14 May (THK, DLD) and Winneshiek Co. on 14 May (DeC).

Dark-eyed Junco: Last: 15 May at Des Moines (SJD). Other May sightings were at L. Meyer in Winneshiek Co. on 2 May (DeC) and Cone M. on 3 May (THK).

Lapland Longspur: First: 2 on 2 Mar in Emmet Co. (DHe). Last: 50 on 15 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (CRN). High count: 2,000 on 12 Apr in Sioux and Lyon counties along roadsides after snow storm.

Smith's Longspur: First: 2 on 7 Mar in Polk Co. (Gordon Brown fide SJD). Other reports were of 30 on 5 Apr in SE Johnson Co. (THK) and 20-50 near Cone M. in Louisa Co. on 6, 7 Apr (PCP, JLF, THK).

Chestnut-collared Longspur: 1 was in extreme NW Sioux Co., on 12 Apr (*THK-photo) and another was n. of Larchwood in Lyon Co. on the same day (*THK). These birds were found along paved roads where the snow had melted after a snow storm.

Snow Bunting: Last: 8 on 7 Mar in Hardin Co. (MPR). High counts: on 5 Mar, 300 in Emmet Co. (DHe) and 75 in Clay Co. (LAS).

Bobolink: First: 4 on 6 May in Van Buren Co. (RLC).

Eastern Meadowlark: First: 6 in Appanoose Co. on 11 Mar (RLC). How do we know when Eastern Meadowlarks first arrive?

Yellow-headed Blackbird: First: 1 on 2 Apr at Blue L. (THK).

Rusty Blackbird: First: 6 on 15 Mar at Hendrickson M. (MPR). Last: 1 on 25 Apr at Blue L. (THK). High count: 115 on 6 Apr in NE Boone Co. (SJD).

Brewer's Blackbird: All: 10 on 2, 18 Apr e. of Yale (THK); and 1 female on 22 Apr in Clay Co. (LAS, HWW).

Great-tailed Grackle: First: 18 Mar at Blue L. (PE). The numerous reports were from the following counties: Boone, Clay, Dallas, Greene, Guthrie, Hamilton, Humboldt, Marshall, Monona, Plymouth, Polk, Pottawattamie, Sac, Story, and Tama. The highest concentration was at Finn Pond in Greene Co. with 17 males and 6 females on 16 May and 10 females carrying food on 19 May (JJD). It seems fair to say that this species is well established in Iowa and moving eastward.

Orchard Oriole: There were reports from 7 counties, which greatly underestimates the occurrence of this species.

Northern Oriole: First: 29 Apr in Lee Co. (CE).

Pine Grosbeak: The 2 winter birds at Spencer were observed on 2 Mar (*JLF, *THK-photo) and were last seen on 8 Mar (LAS).

Purple Finch: 5 singles reported by active observers and none by others is testimony to the scarcity of this species this year.

House Finch: Birds fledged from an Iowa City nest on 17 May (RJH). Few reports were received for this species which is now widespread in both urban and rural localities.

Pine Siskin: Last and high count: 4 on 30 May in Cherokee (DBI). The only other reports were from Cass, Johnson, Sioux, and Woodbury counties.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: 2 on 13 May 5 miles ne. of Oakville in Louisa Co. push the range of this species one county north (PCP).

COMMENT

This spring was interesting for its varied and generally cool weather with concentrations of birds at different locations and times. I received a record amount of data (1,868 entries into a computer database) from 44 contributors and 7 additional documenters. There were 43 documentations of 22 species. I greatly appreciate the promptness of the contributions -- I was able to enter all of the data by 6 June.

Northwestern Iowa stood out this year because of the increased number of reporters (Welcome to the three Thelen brothers -- Ed, Marty, and Rob), the extensive coverage at the I.O.U. spring meeting on 19 to 21 May, and the number of rare birds that were found (e.g., Long-billed Curlew, Mountain Bluebird, Lazuli Bunting, Chestnut-collared Longspur, and Pine Grosbeak).

This report is based on the data received. The initials after each record refer to the report that cited the record. Most of the active birders in Iowa regularly send in reports, but some do so irregularly or not at all. Thus, some good sightings do not make it into the historical record. I would challenge those who do not report their findings for one reason or another to look through this spring report and see what they could add to it. It is never too late to send additional information. For those who would like to report, but just never seem to get around to it, I would suggest that they start keeping a running list after each field trip of their most interesting sightings and send that list in by the reporting date as shown on the back of the journal. It is surprising how often what seems to be mundane data turns out to be significant because it is a n early or late date or high count, or just adds weight to the body of evidence.

In addition to encouraging as much reporting as possible, I have the job of evaluating the data. There are always some records that I cannot decide whether to include or not. This is an honest reaction, usually due to lack of enough information and directed toward the bird, not the person who reported it. Most of the birds seen at unusual dates are adequately substantiated, but a few are not. I have decided to try requesting additional details and confirmation of unusual dates. In the past I have found that dates may be off by a month -- an easy mistake to make. Observers should indicate that they are aware of birds seen at unusual dates and provide sufficient information about the circumstances and description of the bird to be convincing to someone else. Of the five birds that I

requested additional information about, I received very useful information about two, found out that two were date entry errors, and did not get a reply about one.

This summer I will update my list of early and late dates for regular and casual species. I would be happy to send it to anyone upon request. A self-address letter-sized (9.5 inches) envelope and four stamps (loose) to cover the cost of postage and copying would be appreciated.

I have continued the format used in the Fall 1994 report (i.e., first, last, high count). I heard no comments about the format. Does that mean good, bad, or indifferent? Missing data usually means that the data was not available or was likely to be misleading because few were reported. At least two name changes should be noted. Midwest Power Ponds replaces IPL Ponds in Pottawattamie County, and Port Neal is used to refer to the settling ponds at the power plant in Woodbury County and nearby areas. When the number of birds is not given, 1 is implied.

REPORTS RECEIVED (* = DOCUMENTATION ONLY)

Pam H. Allen (PHA), West Des Moines; Reid I. Allen (RIA), West Des Moines; Dick Bierman (DBI), Cherokee; Dennis Carter (DeC), Decorah; Robert I. Cecil (RIC), Des Moines; Raymond L. Cummins (RLC), Centerville; David L. Dankert (DLD), Cedar Rapids; Jeff Dankert (JDa), La Crosse, WI; James J. Dinsmore (JJD), Ames; Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), Ames; Dan C. Dorrance (DCD), Davenport; Chris Edwards (CE), North Liberty; Bery Engebretsen (BE), Des Moines; Peter Erzen (PE), Ida Grove; Carolyn J. Fischer (CJF), Mason City; James L. Fuller (JLF), Iowa City; Rita A. Goranson (RGo), Mason City; Douglas C. Harr (DCH), Larchwood; Dennis Henrickson (DHe), Estherville; Richard J. Hollis (RJH), Iowa City; Bill F. Huser (BFH), South Sioux City, NE; Ann M. Johnson (AMJ), Norwalk; Matthew C. Kenne (MCK), Algona; Thomas H. Kent (THK), Iowa City; Sharron R. Laub (SRL), Rippey; Fred Leshner (FL), La Crosse, WI; *Steven Matherly (SM), TX; *James P. Mattsson (JPM), Quincy, IL; Curt R. Nelson (CRN), Mason City; Babs K. Padelford (BKP), Bellevue, NE; Loren J. Padelford (LJP), Bellevue, NE; *John Paulin (JP), Ames; Marietta A. Petersen (MAP), Walnut; Peter C. Petersen (PCP), Davenport; Diane C. Porter (DCP), Fairfield; Beth Proescholdt (BPr), Liscomb; Mark Proescholdt (MPr), Liscomb; *Jim Quinlivan (JQ), Wapello; Lee A. Schoenewe (LAS), Spencer; *W. Ross Silcock (WRS), Tabor; Jim Sinclair (JSi), Indianola; *Carol A. Thompson (CAT), Iowa City; Dale Stone (DS), Lake City; Ed Thelen (ETh), Spirit Lake; Marty Thelen (MTh), Carroll; Rob Thelen (RTh), Carroll; John Van Dyk (JV), Sioux Center; Harold W. White (HWW), Estherville; *Russell R. Widner (RRW), Marshalltown; *Dorothy Wilcox (DW), Jewell; Albion J. Young (AJY), Wellman; and Hank Zaletel, (HZ), Colo.

211 Richards Street, Iowa City, IA 52246

REPORT OF THE RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 1994

THOMAS H. KENT

The Records Committee reviewed 51 records from 1994. Of these, 41 were accepted and 10 were not. No new species for the state were discovered in 1994, except for Fulvous Whistling-Duck, which was of uncertain origin (A-O). Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was added to the state list based on two 1993 specimens and three older records that were re-reviewed in light of new information on the pattern of vagrancy of this species. A Trumpeter Swan was accepted in the category A-D. Based on this record and one from 1993 (Kent 1994), the committee voted to change the status of this species from Extirpated to Regular based on a pattern of migrants and winter visitants over the last ten years. Individual birds must be judged, however, based on whether they were raised in captivity.

One old sighting was submitted for review (not accepted) and six previously unreviewed literature citations were reviewed (one accepted). Re-review of four old records was requested by the original observer: 1 was changed from NA to A-D, 2 were changed from A-D to A-P, and one remained NA.

The category A-E was changed to A-O to better reflect the meaning of this category -- origin uncertain. This category means that the identification is acceptable, but the committee does not know whether the bird occurred naturally or was assisted by man. The 1994 sighting of Fulvous Whistling-Duck is an example of a bird placed in this category.

The committee voted on status changes for species in anticipation of the publication of a new edition of the Official Checklist of Iowa Birds. One species was removed from the list (Sprague's Pipit) based on re-review of the only previously accepted record.

At its meeting of 14 Aug 1994, a new Operating Procedures Manual was reviewed and minor alterations made. This manual tells how the committee is organized and how it reviews records, archives records and photographs, and updates official lists. The committee decided to request documentations of and review all records of Casual as well as Accidental species. In the past Casual species were inconsistently reviewed. Rare regular birds, birds seen at very unusual times, and birds in unusual plumages (e.g., immature Lesser Black-backed Gull, adult Thayer's Gull) should also be documented and will be reviewed at the discretion of the Field Reports Editors and the committee. As of 1995, Casual species, which should all be documented, are Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, White-faced Ibis, Mississippi Kite, Black-necked Stilt, Whimbrel, Red Knot, Laughing Gull, California Gull, Iceland Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's Gull, Rock Wren, Mountain Bluebird, Bohemian Waxwing, Western Tanager, and Pine Grosbeak.

Committee members for 1994 with years in which their terms expire were: Robert I. Cecil (1995), Tanya E. Bray (1996), Raymond L. Cummins (1997), Francis L. Moore (1998), Ann M. Johnson (1999), W. Ross Silcock (2000), and Thomas H. Kent (secretary, appointed by the committee).

The four-digit number (year and sequence number) assigned to each record reviewed by the Records Committee is included for future reference. For old records not previously reviewed, the year is the year of first review and the sequence number is two letters. Records are classified as follows: A = Accepted

(-S = specimen, -P = photograph, -R = recording, -D = documentation, -O = origin uncertain) and NA = Not Accepted. In order to be Accepted, a record must receive 7 votes on the initial review or 6 votes on a subsequent review. The subcategories A-S, A-P, and A-R indicate that physical evidence supports the identification, and records are subclassified based on a majority vote. References to *IBL* are the page of the Field Reports in *Iowa Bird Life* where the record is cited. P- numbers refer to the IOU Photo File entry number. Published notes and previous citations may contain more details. An * indicates a previously uncited documentation.

1994 RECORDS ACCEPTED

- Red-throated Loon:** One was at Silver L. in Worth Co. on 7 May (94-06, *IBL* 64:72), and another was at L. Manawa in Pottawattamie Co. on 29 Nov (94-29, *IBL* 65:10).
- Pacific Loon:** One mostly in basic plumage summered at Anderson L. in Hamilton Co. from 13 Jul to 16 Sep (94-21, *IBL* 64:107, 65:10, Dinsmore 1995a). Another was at Black Hawk L. in Sac Co. on 7 Nov (94:30, *IBL* 65:10).
- Clark's Grebe:** One was at Trumbull L. in Clay Co. on 13 May (94-07, Brewer 1995). Another was photographed at South Twin L. in Calhoun Co. on 25 Nov (94-31, P-0433, *IBL* 65:11, Dinsmore 1995b).
- Fulvous Whistling-Duck:** One was at Goose L. in Clinton Co. from 17 Jul to 8 Sep (95-22, *IBL* 64:107; 65:11). This species is kept in captivity in Iowa and unmarked and uncaged birds were observed at another location by a committee member. The origin of the bird at Goose L. was judged as uncertain (A-O).
- Trumpeter Swan:** A first-year bird was at Blue L. in Monona Co. on 10 Apr (94-08, *IBL* 64:73). Other records of this species were not reviewed, and the committee will not routinely review future records of this species. Observers are asked, however, to continue to send documentations and details about the origin of birds to Field Reports editors so that we can monitor the status of this species in Iowa. "Countability" is left to individual birders, but should be based on American Birding Association guidelines.
- Barrow's Goldeneye:** A male was photographed at Terra L. in Polk Co. on 28 Nov (94-46, P-0434, *IBL* 65:12).
- Mississippi Kite:** There were four records: 17 May at Iowa City in Johnson Co. (94-09, *IBL* 64:74), 22 May at Peterson Pits in Story Co. (94-10, *IBL* 64:74), 22 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. in Pottawattamie Co. (94-32, *IBL* 65:13), and 26 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. in Marshall Co. (94-33, *IBL* 65:13). The spring birds were adults (or possible subadults) and the fall birds were first-year birds.
- Greater Prairie-Chicken:** One wintered at Cherokee in Cherokee Co. from 6 Jan to 7 Apr and was photographed (94-01, P-0416, P-0417, Bieman 1994).
- Black Rail:** One was seen and heard at State Line M. in Kossuth Co. on 12 Jul (94-23, *IBL* 64:108).
- Purple Gallinule:** One was at Sweet M. in Bremer Co. from 24 to 30 May (94-11, *IBL* 64:74, Stone 1995).
- Black-necked Stilt:** Two were at Stom L. in Buena Vista Co. on 5 Sep (94-34, *IBL* 65:14).
- Whimbrel:** One was at Coralville Res. in Johnson Co. on 27 May (94-12, Edwards 1994).
- Red Knot:** One was at Blue L. in Monona Co. on 12 May (94-13, Emzen 1994).
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper:** Iowa's first spring bird was seen and tape recorded at Riverton A. in Fremont Co. on 15 May (94-25, P-0439).
- Red Phalarope:** One was photographed at Spirit L. in Dickinson Co. on 29 Nov (94-35, P-0421, *IBL* 65:15).
- Jaeger species:** A jaeger, probably a Parasitic, was at Saylorville Res. in Polk Co. On 22 Sep (94-36, *IBL* 65:15).
- Long-tailed Jaeger:** Iowa's second record of this species, an adult, was at Tomahawk M. and Black Hawk L. in Sac Co. from 4 to 13 Sep and was photographed (94-37, P-0422, P-0423, *IBL* 65:15).
- Laughing Gull:** There were three records: A second-year bird was at Keokuk in Lee Co. on 8 and 9 Jul (94-24, *IBL* 64:110), a juvenile was photographed at Rathbun Res. in Appanoose Co. on 6 Aug (94-38, P-0424, *IBL* 65:15), and a first-winter bird was at Midwest Power Ponds in Pottawattamie Co. on 19, 24, and 29 Oct (94-27, *IBL* 65:15).
- Little Gull:** One in basic plumage was at Big Creek S.P. in Polk Co. from 14 to 20 Nov and was photographed (94-39, P-0432, *IBL* 65:15, Dinsmore 1995c).

- Common Black-headed Gull:** An adult was at Spirit L. in Dickinson Co. on 2 Aug and another adult was feeding a juvenile nearby at Ketteson Hogsback A. (94-40, P-0429, P-0431, *IBL* 65:15). The juvenile was photographed and at least one adult was present until 12 Aug. The only other nesting records for North America are from eastern Canada and New England (Kaufman 1995). Another bird in basic plumage was at Big Creek S. P. in Polk Co. on 17, 21, and 23 Nov (94-41, *IBL* 65:15).
- Mew Gull:** A first-winter bird was at Red Rock Res. in Marion Co. from 11 Dec to 1 Jan 1995 (94-48, *IBL* 65:42, 49).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull:** An adult was at Red Rock Res. in Marion Co. on 11, 17, and 21 Dec (94-49, *IBL* 65:42, 49).
- Great Black-backed Gull:** A first-winter bird was at Red Rock Res. in Marion Co. on 17 Dec (94-50, *IBL* 65:42, 49).
- Sabine's Gull:** A juvenile at Black Hawk L. in Sac Co. from 5 to 13 Sep was photographed (94-44, P-0425, *IBL* 65:15).
- Say's Phoebe:** One found in Appanoose Co. on 17 Dec (94-51, *IBL* 65:42, 50) was Iowa's second winter record.
- Mountain Bluebird:** One or two males were near Jefferson in Greene Co. from 6 to 13 Mar (94-15, *IBL* 64:77).
- Common Yellowthroat:** One was photographed at Forney L. in Fremont Co. on 2 Jan (94-05, P-0418, *IBL* 64:44, 50).
- Western Tanager:** A male was near Swan L. in Johnson Co. on 25 and 26 Apr (94-18, Dankert 1995).
- Black-headed Grosbeak:** A male was at Big Creek S.P. in Polk Co. on 15 May (94-19, *IBL* 64:79). An immature female was near Marquette in Clayton Co. on 1 Oct (94-28, *IBL* 65:18).
- Lark Bunting:** A female was north of Burlington in Des Moines Co. on 30 Apr (94-20, Fuller 1995).
- Eurasian Tree Sparrow:** One in western Johnson Co. on 9 Jan was a first county record (94-04, *IBL* 64:52).

1994 RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

- Lesser Black-backed Gull:** The details for an immature bird that was not seen in flight were suggestive but not conclusive (94-42, *IBL* 65:15).
- Great Black-backed Gull:** A bird was seen only briefly from behind (94-42, *IBL* 65:15).
- Steller's Jay:** There was no description of this extremely unlikely vagrant (94-45, *IBL* 65:16).
- Fish Crow:** The committee felt that a bird heard at Big Timber in Louisa Co. on 25 Apr was likely a Fish Crow, but also felt that additional confirmation (recordings if possible) should be obtained before adding this species to the state list (94-14, *IBL* 64:77).
- Marsh Wren:** A wren at Brown's L. in Woodbury Co. on a Christmas Bird Count on 2 Jan defied a perfect look (94-03, *IBL* 44:50). Because Sedge Wren is also possible in winter, a minority of the committee felt that this record should be left as Wren species.
- Sprague's Pipit:** Although features suggested this species, the committee was not sure that this was a pipit from the description and behavior (94-16, *IBL* 64:77).
- Swainson's Warbler:** The description of a bird seen in atypical habitat was not convincing to the committee (94-17, *IBL* 64:78).

OLD RECORDS REVIEWED FOR FIRST TIME

- Red-throated Loon:** One reported at Folsom L. in Mills Co. on 13 May 1972 (*Nebraska Bird Review* 40:85) lacked a description of the bird (94-AC). Another at De Soto N.W.R. on 3 Nov 1977 (*Nebraska Bird Review* 45:19) may have been in Nebraska.
- Arctic Loon:** A sight record from 1989 was submitted (94-AB). Some of the features suggested this species, but the much more likely Common Loon could mimic these features.
- Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:** A bird shot at Big M. in Butler Co. on 1 Nov 1993 is now at Iowa State University (94-AA, ISU #2612, P-0457). The committee decided to treat this record and previously well-substantiated records as natural vagrants, i.e., A-S, A-P, or A-D rather than A-O.
- American Swallow-tailed Kite:** The committee did not accept a secondhand report of an old specimen pending direct confirmation that the specimen exists and is adequately labeled (94-AE).
- Eskimo Curlew:** In a letter to Hough (1901), John Smith describes thousands of "dough birds" on the bunt prairie with golden plover in the spring of 1886, presumably near Algona in Kossuth Co., where he lived (94-AF). The committee felt that the description of the behavior and the observers familiarity with the species in New England warranted acceptance of this record (A-D) as one of the few substantiated ones describing Eskimo Curlew in Iowa at the time of settlement.

Vermilion Flycatcher: A bird at Carter L. on 21 Nov 1954 (94-AG, Rapp 1955) was determined from the original observer to be in Nebraska.

OLD RECORDS RECONSIDERED -- CHANGED TO ACCEPTED

Little Gull: A first-winter bird at Saylorville Res. in Polk Co. on 27 Oct and 1 Nov 1988 (88-26, *Stephen J. Dinsmore, *Ann M. Johnson, *IBL* 59:14, 77) was re-reviewed at the request of the first observer. This represents the first record for Iowa.

OLD RECORDS RECONSIDERED -- STATUS CHANGED

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: As mentioned in the report for 1993 (Kent 1994), several previous records of this species that were considered to be of uncertain origin were upgraded based on vagrancy data that show a spring and fall pattern of records in the central part of United States and the relative rarity (compared to Fulvous Whistling-Duck) of this species in captivity. The status of the following records was changed: 8 May 1977 at Zirbel Sl. in Cerro Gordo Co. (82-AC, P-0169, Barratt 1977, changed to A-P); 29 May 1987 near Boone in Boone Co. (87-13, P-0223, *IBL* 57:119; 58:75, changed to A-P); 23 Oct 1988 at Ingham L. in Emmet Co. (88-14, *Tom Hartwig, *IBL* 59:10, 76, changed to A-D); and 24 Oct 1993 at Blue L. in Monona Co. (93-21, ISU #2611, P-0409, P-0456, *IBL* 64:11, 68, changed to A-S).

Red Phalarope: New prints from the original slides resulted in change from A-D to A-P for a previously reported adult mostly in basic plumage at Saylorville Res. in Polk Co. on 4 Aug 1991 (91-27, P-0308, Dinsmore 1992).

Little Gull: New copies from an original print along with a explanation of the viewing angle resulted in change from A-D to A-P for a previously reported adult at Saylorville Res. in Polk Co. on 8 Oct 1989 (89-38, P-0369, Dinsmore et al. 1990).

OLD RECORDS RECONSIDERED -- STATUS UNCHANGED

California Gull: At the request of the observer, a potential first state record of this species (86-21, *IBL* 57:78) was re-reviewed and remained Not Accepted on a split vote.

LITERATURE CITED

- Barratt, B. 1977. Black-bellied Whistling Duck, a new species for Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 47:104-106.
- Bierman, D. 1994. Greater Prairie-Chicken in Cherokee County. *Iowa Bird Life* 64:115.
- Brewer, M. M. 1995. Clark's Grebe in Clay County. *Iowa Bird Life* 65:23.
- Dankert, D. L. 1994. Western Tanager in eastern Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 65:21-22.
- Dinsmore, S. J. 1992. A second Red Phalarope at Saylorville Reservoir. *Iowa Bird Life* 62:86-87.
- Dinsmore, S. J. 1995a. First summer record of a Pacific/Arctic Loon for Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 65:55-56.
- Dinsmore, S. J. 1995b. Clark's Grebe in Calhoun County. *Iowa Bird Life* 65:86-87.
- Dinsmore, S. J. 1995c. Little Gull at Big Creek Lake. *Iowa Bird Life* 65:85-86.
- Dinsmore, S. J., P. Allen, and R. Allen. 1990. Little Gull at Saylorville Reservoir. *Iowa Bird Life* 60:77.
- Edwards, C. 1994. Whimbrel at Coralville Reservoir. *Iowa Bird Life* 64:118-119.
- Ernzen, P. 1994. Red Knot in Monona County. *Iowa Bird Life* 64:85.
- Fuller, C. 1995. Lark Bunting in Des Moines County. *Iowa Bird Life* 65:22.
- Hough, E. 1901. The dough bird again. *Forest and Stream* 56:146.
- Kaufman, K. 1995. Changing seasons. *Fieldnotes* 49:8-11.
- Kent, T. H. 1994. Report of the Records Committee for 1993. *Iowa Bird Life* 64:67-70.

Rapp, W. F. 1955. The Vermilion Flycatcher in Nebraska. *Nebraska Bird Review* 23:29.

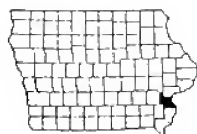
Stone, T. 1995. Purple Gallinule in Bremer County. *Iowa Bird Life* 65:52.

211 Richards Street, Iowa City, IA 52246

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD USE OF BUR-CUCUMBER DURING FALL MIGRATION, 1994: A POSSIBLE RESPONSE TO POST-FLOOD HABITAT CHANGES

JAMES QUINLIVAN, MICHAEL BORNSTEIN, AND KELLY J. MCKAY

The Great Flood of 1993 had varying effects on the wildlife and plant communities of the Upper Mississippi River. While the effects on avian species and floodplain vegetation are still unfolding, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were seen to take advantage of a post-flood change in the forest understory at one floodplain site during the 1994 fall migration.



Surveys of nongame migratory birds, with a special focus on neotropical migrants, were conducted on the Big Timber Division of the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge in 1994. The Big Timber Division is a 1,758 acre unvegetated backwater complex of bottomland timber and forested wetlands and sloughs, located along the west bank of Pool 17 of the Upper Mississippi River, Louisa County, Iowa. The entire area was severely affected by the record flooding of 1993, which inundated much of the bottomland forest with up to six feet of water. We conducted 1994 fall migration surveys using a modified area search technique (Ralph et al., 1993). This involved recording all birds seen or heard within a four-hour period, beginning at sunrise, while slowly walking through a selected area. During these surveys, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were seen in unusual abundance.

Hummingbirds were seen actively feeding from the small white flowers of bur-cucumber (*Sicyos angulatus*). This vine was present in very limited abundance prior to the flooding of 1993, when habitat surveys indicated the forest understory was dominated by poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) and herbaceous species such as beggarticks (*Bidens* sp.) and wood nettle (*Laportea canadensis*). In 1994, bur-cucumber was the dominant understory species, often blanketing the forest floor and smaller trees.

The 1994 fall migration resulted in documentation of an unusually large number of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. One observer recorded 78 individual hummingbirds while walking a distance of only 2 kilometers on 31 August. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds accounted for 15% of 1,053 individual birds of 61 species recorded during field surveys on that date. Hummingbirds appeared to concentrate their foraging activities exclusively on bur-cucumber, and were not seen feeding on any other plant. Bur-cucumber flowers were most abundant during the last week of August, coinciding with the greatest number of hummingbirds (156) recorded on weekly fall surveys.

Interspecific and intraspecific competition for available bur-cucumber flowers and territory surrounding bur-cucumber was often observed. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds aggressively flew towards Indigo Buntings, Yellow Warblers, and other hummingbirds in the area, usually driving off rivals and intruders.

Other researchers have suggested that post-flood habitat conditions in the forested floodplain may have benefited Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (Low 1994), and effects on the entire floodplain forest bird community can be speculated. Bur-cucumber can become more abundant in disturbed bottomland forest due to increased light penetration on the forest floor (Jahn and Anderson, 1986). Flood-related tree mortality, which resulted in the failure of many species to leaf out in the spring of 1994 (National Biological Service et al., 1994), may have provided the more open conditions preferred by bur-cucumber. While the specific importance of bur-cucumber in meeting Ruby-throated Hummingbird life history requirements is unknown, our observations suggest that bur-cucumber may be highly significant to this species when available during migration, and further emphasizes the importance of floodplain forest resources for migratory birds.

LITERATURE CITED

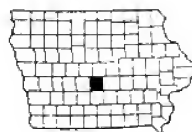
- Jahn, L. A., and R. V. Anderson. 1986. The Ecology of Pools 19 and 20, Upper Mississippi River: A Community Profile. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Biological Report 85(7.6).
- Low, J. 1994. Going with the Flow: The Great Flood of 1993 and its impact on birds. *Birder's World* 8(4):16-20.
- National Biological Service, Illinois Natural History Survey, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. 1994. Long Term Resource Monitoring Program 1993 Flood Observations. National Biological Service, Environmental Management Technical Center, Onalaska, Wisconsin. LTRMP 94-S011.
- Ralph, C. J., C. R. Geupel, P. Pyle, T. E. Martin, and D. F. DeSante. 1993. Handbook of field methods for monitoring landbirds. U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Forest Research Station, Albany, California. General Technical Report PSW-GTR-144.

Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge, Wapello District, 10728 County Road X61, Wapello, IA 52653 (JQ, MB) and Midwest Raptor Research Fund, 6143 34th Ave., Moline, IL 61265 (KJM).

LITTLE GULL AT BIG CREEK LAKE

STEPHEN J. DINSMORE

On 14 November 1994, I was scanning hundreds of Bonaparte's Gulls at Big Creek Lake, Polk County, when I noticed a smaller gull with dark underwings which I recognized as an adult Little Gull. I watched the bird from 10:52 a.m. to 1:08 p.m. and took several photos of the bird from a boat. The bird remained at this location through 19 November.



Compared to a Bonaparte's Gull, this bird was roughly 10-15% smaller. The wings were much more rounded at the tips, and the bird flew with noticeably faster and deeper wingbeats. The upperwings were entirely pale gray, with a narrow white border along the trailing edge of the wing (e.g., white tips to each of the flight feathers). The undersides of the flight feathers were black, except for a narrow white trailing edge. The axillars were paler and grayish in color. The tail was white and square-tipped. The uppertail contrasted with the slightly darker gray mantle and upperwings. The underparts were entirely white. The head was white with a dark gray cap, visible both in flight and when the bird perched on the water. There was an obvious dark spot behind the eye, similar to that of a Bonaparte's Gull. The head seemed small and dove-like, accentuated by the large eye. The legs were bright red. The bill was black, and slightly shorter than that of a Bonaparte's Gull. I aged the bird as an adult, probably in third-basic plumage since birds in second-basic plumage usually show some black on the upper surface of the primaries.

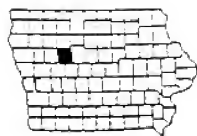
This represents the fourth record of a Little Gull in Iowa. Other records are of a first-winter bird on 27 October 1988 at Saylorville Reservoir (pers. obs.), an adult on 8 October 1989 at Saylorville Reservoir (Dinsmore et al., *Iowa Bird Life* 60:77, 1990), and an adult on 23 April 1992 south of Council Bluffs (*Iowa Bird Life* 63:77, 1993). Records of this species are increasing in the Midwest, with most records in April and from October to December.

4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014

CLARK'S GREBE IN CALHOUN COUNTY

STEPHEN J. DINSMORE

On 25 November 1994, I observed an adult Clark's Grebe at South Twin Lake, Calhoun County. The lake was 99% frozen, and the grebe was resting on the ice at least 200 meters from open water. I studied the bird from 8:25-8:55 a.m. and made the following brief notes. Size was hard to judge since the bird was alone, although it was clearly



longer and slimmer than some nearby Mallards. The bird was similar to a Western Grebe with a white throat and breast, black crown, back of the neck, mantle, and upperwings, a long, slender, pointed bill, and very long, swan-like neck. Other features noted included white lores (not gray or black) and white color surrounding the eye, though it appeared to be grayish just above and behind the eye. The flanks were very white mixed with some light gray color and were noticeably paler than the mantle and upperwings. The bill was bright orange, not dull yellow-green as on a Western Grebe. The combination of bill color, white lores, and pale flanks eliminates the possibility of a Western Grebe or a hybrid of the two species.

I took two distant but identifiable photos, the first such evidence of this species in the state. This represents about the fifth record of this species in Iowa. Other records include one on 5 May 1983 at Cone Marsh, Louisa County (*Iowa Bird Life* 53:48, 1983), one on 12-13 October 1985 at Big Creek Lake and nearby Saylorville Reservoir (Dinsmore, *Iowa Bird Life* 56:31, 1986), three on 30 May 1986 at Hendrickson Marsh, Story County (*Iowa Bird Life* 56:82, 1986), and one

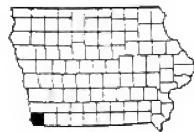
on 13, 19 May 1994 at Trumbull Lake, Clay County (Brewer, *Iowa Bird Life* 65:23, 1995).

4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50014

GLOSSY IBIS IN FREMONT COUNTY

THOMAS H. KENT, JAMES L. FULLER, AND A. RICHARD TETRAULT

At 1:30 p.m. on 18 May 1995, we were birding the east-west dike at the north end of Riverton Area in Fremont County when we noticed three large dark birds flying from the south. At first we thought that they were cormorants, but soon we saw the long, decurved bills typical of ibises. They flew directly over our heads at about 50 feet. We could not detect any white around the eye. They circled for some time as they flew off to the northwest. We followed them with binoculars and telescope as they seemed to be leaving the area, but they came back and disappeared behind trees on the west side of the West Nishnabotna River.



With the aid of a county map and after 9 miles of driving, we relocated the three ibises feeding along the edge of a shallow pond. We approached the birds so that they were to the northeast and later directly east of us at about 80 yards. We were able to study them with the telescope and later take photos with a 1500 mm mirror lens.

We identified two birds as Glossy Ibis and one as White-faced Ibis. They were large, dark, long-legged birds with long, thick, strongly decurved bills. The two glossies tended to stay together and slightly apart from the white-faced. The glossies were noticeably larger, perhaps 10 to 15 percent. All three birds had chestnut-colored necks and body and iridescent green backs and wings. There was no evidence of retained brownish feathers that might be expected on an immature bird. The white-faced had white feathering all the way around the red eyes. The glossies had thin blue lines (facial skin) above and below the eye. These lines did not extend back of the eye or around the chin. The eyes were dark without any hint of red. The lower line was thinner and neither was half as wide as the white feathering on the white-faced. The white-faced had bright carmine legs; the legs of the glossies were dark gray without any red color at the joints. The bills of the glossies were dull gray throughout; the bill of the white-face was somewhat lighter proximally and appeared pink-tinged in direct sunlight. The birds fed in shallow water and at times rested or preened.

On the 19 May we found two ibises on the north side of J46 west of the town of Riverton on the west side of the West Nishnabotna. One was a white-faced and the other a glossy. They appeared the same as the birds seen the day before except that the white feathering around the eye of the white-faced was slightly less prominent.

We visited with B. J. Rose about 8:30 p.m. on the 18th, and he indicated that there were two glossies and two white-faced present at the pond later in the afternoon of the 18th. Only one of the white-faced was smaller than the glossier. These findings were confirmed in a written description by Babs and Loren Padelford. Ross Silcock documented one of the Glossy Ibises on 22 May.

Glossy Ibis is an Old World species that invaded the United States in the 1890s and spread as far west as Louisiana and the Mississippi Valley. Usually only adult birds in alternate plumage viewed at close range can be identified, although any dark ibis with a red eye is said to be a white-faced (Pratt 1976). The white feathers around the eye are the easiest field mark to identify White-faced Ibis, but this is the last feature to develop in molt to alternate plumage and may not be present in first-summer birds. The positive field mark for Glossy Ibis is the blue facial skin with a pale border. The dark eye and dark legs are less definitive, since they may be present or be indeterminate on basic-plumaged or immature White-faced Ibises.

Minnesota's first record of Glossy Ibis in the spring of 1991 (Janssen 1992) was a year earlier and not far from Iowa's only other accepted record in Kossuth County on 6-7 May 1992 (Kenne 1994). Glossy Ibis is reported more often than White-faced in Illinois (Bohlen 1989) and Missouri (Robbins and Easterla 1992). Five of the spring records of Glossy Ibis from Missouri are from Holt and Buchanan counties in northwestern Missouri, which is not far from Fremont County in Iowa. There are at least three records of Glossy Ibis from Colorado (Andrews and Righter 1992), and there were reports from Kansas and Wyoming in early May 1992 (Grzybowski 1992, Kingery 1992). Glossy Ibis may be continuing its slow westward expansion, but improved birder identification skills may also be partly responsible for recent records.

LITERATURE CITED

- Andrews, R., and R. Righter. 1992. Colorado Birds. Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver.
- Bohlen, H. D. 1989. The Birds of Illinois. Indiana University Press, Bloomington.
- Grzybowski, J. A. 1992. Southern Great Plains Region. *American Birds* 46:443-444.
- Janssen, R. B. 1992. A Glossy Ibis in Minnesota. *The Loon* 64:5-10.
- Kenne, M. 1994. Glossy Ibis in Kossuth County. *Iowa Bird Life* 64:83-84.
- Kingery, H. E. 1992. Mountain West Region. *American Birds* 46:453-456.
- Pratt, H. D. 1976. Field identification of White-faced and Glossy ibises. *Birding* 8:1-5.
- Robbins, M. B., and D. A. Easterla. 1992. Birds of Missouri. University of Missouri Press, Columbia.

211 Richards Street, Iowa City, IA 52246, 6 Longview Knoll, RR 6, Iowa City, IA 52240, and Coralville, IA.

I.O.U. BUSINESS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Otley, 2 April 1995, 10:00-11:15 a.m.

ANN BARKER, PRESIDING; MARY KUHLMAN, SECRETARY

Present: Ann Barker, Beth Brown, Jim Fuller, Ann Johnson, Matt Kenne, Mary Kuhlman, Tim Schantz, Carol Thompson.

Minutes for the 6 November 1995 board meeting were approved as corrected.

The 1994 Financial Report was distributed. It showed an excess of support and revenues over expenses of \$2990.00.

Committee Reports

Records: No report.

Membership: No report. The committee was reminded to recommend new committee members to the board.

Publications: No report

Library-Historical: No report. Expired terms still need to be filled on this committee.

Big Day: No report.

Breeding Bird Atlas: Carol Thompson reported that the atlas should be ready to go press by the end of summer and the target publishing date is spring of 1996. Photos of ten species are needed. Laura Jackson has been contracted to assemble the accounts this summer. The committee and the board thank Jim Sandroek for the many hours he has spent editing the reports.

Education Booklet Promotion: The committee is making revisions to the booklet and plans to reprint it this fall. Iowa Conservation Education Council has pledged \$500 toward the reprinting and \$2,500 was allowed in the 1994 I.O.U. budget. A check for \$825 from I.C.E.C. for booklet sales of was received in January. The committee has discussed a bulk mailing to all Iowa science teachers to promote booklet sales.

Spring Count: The date for 1995 is Saturday, 13 May. The report for the 1994 count was published in the winter 1995 issue of *Iowa Bird Life*.

Field Trips: Trips for 1995 are Southeast Iowa on April 29, Stephens State Forest on 17-18 June, Green Island and Goose Lake on 8 July, Brushy Creek and Fort Dodge on 27 August and northeast Iowa on 2 December.

Nominating: The following slate of officers was proposed for the 1995 election:

President	Carol Thompson
Vice President	Ann Johnson
Director (three positions)	Ann Barker, Bud Gode, Matt Kenne

Birdline: Jim Fuller submitted his annual report showing that the birdline is receiving more calls than ever. An appeal for donations Will be made at the spring meeting. He announced that a bulletin board has been established for I.O.U. on America On Line. It is under Nature Conservancy.

Old Business

Upcoming Meetings: The spring 1995 meeting will be in Ida Grove on 19-21 May. The fall 1995 meeting is planned for Dixon on 8-10 September. Quad City Audubon is the host. Ideas for locations for the spring 1996 meeting were discussed with Vinton and Centerville mentioned. Tentative plans are being made for a joint meeting with South Dakota and Nebraska in Sioux City for the spring of 1997.

Commercial Sales of Checklists: American Birding Association has been contacted about sale of our checklist through their catalog.

Federal Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative: A letter was read from Ann Burns of the Jackson County Conservation Board explaining the initiative and asking for support. It was moved (Fuller, seconded by Johnson) to endorse the Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative. Passed. Carol Thompson suggested that an explanation of the program be placed on the agenda of the spring business meeting and that a program be planned for the fall meeting.

Iowa Wildlife Viewing Guide: The first draft of this publication has been completed.

New Business

Dues: It was moved (Fuller, seconded by Brown) that the dues structure remain unchanged 1996. Passed. Dues will remain \$15 for regular members, \$4 for spouse or child under 16, additional children each \$2, and four payments of \$75 for Life Members.

Carol Thompson will provide American Birding Association a list of Iowa birding organizations for their directory.

Announcements

Matt Kenne reported that he is working on an article about personal lists after reading an interesting article in the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union newsletter.

Tim Schantz reported that a 14-minute video about Bald Eagles was produced this winter in the Red Rock area. Educational materials will be developed to go with the video, and copies will be sent to all county conservation boards. It is also planned to distribute copies to all school districts in Iowa.

SPRING BUSINESS MEETING

Ida Grove, 20 May 1995, 3:40 p.m.

ANN BARKER, PRESIDING; MARY KUHLMAN, SECRETARY

On behalf of the I.O.U., Barker thanked Pete and Kristine Ernzen for their work on local arrangements for the meeting.

Minutes of the fall business meeting were read. It was moved (Hollis, seconded by Gode) that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was distributed. It showed an excess of support and revenues over expenses of \$2990.00. Twenty new members were added from the feeder survey this year. The Board of Directors will discuss auditing procedures.

Committee Reports

Records: No report.

Membership: No report.

Publications: Two nominees for expiring terms will be considered by the Board for approval.

Library-Historical: No report.

Breeding Bird Atlas: Carol Thompson reported that all species accounts are done and edited. The introduction is being written, and a few photos are still needed. Publication is expected next year. The price is being kept at an affordable level and there will be a softcover edition. Special thanks to Jim Sandrock for his editorial work. Barker commended the committee for their work.

Big Day: No report.

Education Booklet Promotion: Hank Zaletel reported that 1,000 revised booklets will be printed soon. The committee has plans to promote sales of the booklet.

Spring Count: Pete Petersen reported that about 20 counties participated this year, and he made forms available for reporting.

Field Trips: Ann Johnson reported on plans for upcoming trips to Stephens State Forest on 17-18 June, Green Island and Goose Lake on 8 July, Brushy Creek on 27 August, and northeastern Iowa on 2 December. The committee is looking at out-of-state trips and would welcome suggestions from members.

Birdline: No report. Donations are welcome.

Old Business

Upcoming Meetings: Jim Fuller reported that the fall 1995 meeting will be in Dixon (Quad City area) on 8-10 September. Burlington was proposed for the spring 1996 meeting and the Centerville/Rathbun area for fall 1996. A tri-state meeting with Nebraska and South Dakota is being planned for spring 1997 in Sioux City.

Review of Board Action: At recent board meetings the Board of Directors

1. approved Tim Schantz to the record committee for a term ending in 2001.
2. voted to provide \$8,981.50 to purchase 781 copies of the Breeding Bird Atlas to distribute to each public and private middle and high school library in Iowa and to each county conservation board.
3. decided to investigate the possibility of a joint meeting with the Nebraska and South Dakota Ornithologists' Unions.
4. voted to appoint a representative to attend the Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative meeting in Des Moines and to support the program.
5. voted to allow commercial sales of the checklist with a minimum order of 100. The American Birding Association has been contacted about sales through their catalog.
6. passed the 1995 budget, with anticipated total expenses of \$11,359 and income of \$12,534.
7. voted to recommend to the membership that dues for 1996 remain unchanged.

New Business

Dues for 1996: It was moved (Zaletel, seconded by Hollis) that dues remain unchanged for 1996. Motion carried. Dues are Regular - \$15, Spouse or child under 16 - \$4, Additional children (each) - \$2, and Life - four payments of \$75 for a total of \$300.

Election of Officers: The following were elected to office: Carol Thompson, president; Ann Johnson, vice president; and Ann Barker, Bud Gode and Matt Kenne, Board of Directors. Barker thanked the nominating committee composed of Harold White, chair, Mark Proescholdt, and Reid Allen.

Announcements

New decals are available for \$1.00 each.

Pete Petersen announced Big Sand Mound Preserve Field Day will be held 17 June. He also has Breeding Bird Survey routes available.

Carol Thompson announced that I.O.U. has endorsed the Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative which could generate up to \$4.7 million per year for nongame wildlife programs in Iowa. She urged members to write to manufacturers of outdoor equipment voicing support of the program. This will be on the program at the fall meeting.

Jane Clark announced that she has Steve Dinsmore's checklist of Polk County birds for sale.

Jim Fuller announced that Jeremiah Rice attended the spring meeting as the student guest of the I.O.U.

Jim Dinsmore reported that the Watchable Wildlife Guide project will include information on 77 sites and will be ready by early fall. He also announced that the Myrle Burk Scholarship awarded \$750 each to four Iowa State students: Liesl Kelly, Tammy Stafford, Jeannette Schafer, and Laura Myers.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Ida Grove, 20 May 1995, 4:35 p.m.

ANN BARKER, PRESIDING; MARY KUHLMAN, SECRETARY

Present: Ann Barker, Beth Brown, Jim Fuller, Bud Gode, Rick Hollis, Ann Johnson, Mary Kuhlman, Carol Thompson.

It was moved (Gode, seconded by Fuller) to approve Dan Dorrance and Ann Barker for terms on the Publications Committee. Motion carried. Dorrance will serve through 1999 and Barker through 1998.

A Photographic Guide to North American Raptors by Brian K. Wheeler and William S. Clark. Academic Press, London, 1995, 198 pp., hardbound \$29.95. This guide is meant by the authors to complement their earlier classic, *Hawks* (Houghton Mifflin, 1987), a goal *Raptors* soars above and beyond.

In the written descriptions of the 42 species of diurnal raptors found in North America, *Raptors* is simple and concise. In an amazing and enlightening feat, the authors' years of experience have been refined and condensed into about 40 pages with very little loss. The Swainson's Hawk's manner of soaring with a strong dihedral was not mentioned, however, and I'm confused by a "wing/tail ratio" listed as one of the best field marks for Harris' Hawk and Gray Hawk, but never explained or illustrated. Miniscule complaints like these are far outweighed by the superior work these men have done in *Raptors* to improve our skills in identification. Each species account also contains range information and key points for separating similar species.

Raptors' greatest achievement is its outstanding collection of captioned photographs. Wheeler is a painstakingly accurate bird painter, but his (and Clark's) photography shows these birds at their dynamic best. The photos capture the fire in the eye of hungry predators at the top of their food chains. The knock against using photos to illustrate field guides has always been that you don't get a useful view of a species, you just get one moment in the life of one bird. In fact, what you usually get is one or two questionable photos that show few of the marks you need to tell the sex or age or sometimes even the species of the bird you want to identify. Not this time! *Raptors* contains 377 photos that show every recognizably different plumage of every regularly occurring diurnal raptor and representative shots of all vagrant species. That's nine photos per species on

average, one for each combination of adult and juvenile, dorsal and ventral, airborne and perched, plus more! When you throw in color morphs and subspecies, Red-tailed Hawk receives a mind-boggling array of 46 shots!

I have never seen photographs that are so superbly illustrative of field marks and at the same time so stunning to look at. The authors' insistence on a no-nest, no-staging, no-studio policy on photographs does tend at times to make this book seem like a Field Guide to Power Poles of Western North America, but I found it to be a true-to-life quirk: many raptors I watch are in the same position. It also makes understandable a couple of less-than-stellar photos of Collared Forest-Falcon and Crane Hawk, vagrants (once each) to Texas. Otherwise, shot after shot, every time I turned a page, there was another breathtaking example of why I love to watch hawks. As a challenge for you, I did find one instance of switched captions.

The book ends with a section of 14 "Raptor Identification Problems" where difficult problem species are highlighted with similar photos next to each other for comparison. Some you may have seen featured elsewhere, such as Sharp-shinned Hawk vs. Cooper's Hawk, and Golden Eagle vs. non-adult Bald Eagle, but very nicely done were others like perched juvenile buteos, perched dark-morph buteos, and comparisons of pale primary panels on flying buteos (both upperwing and underwing!). There is no bibliography (a pet peeve!), so if you need references, you'll have to look in Clark and Wheeler's *Hawks*.

If you don't have a guide specifically covering birds of prey, *Raptors* is the one to buy. If you already have one (or more?), *Raptors* is the first you'll take down from the shelf; you may even want a second copy for suffering damage in the field!--Matthew Kenne

FIFTY YEARS AGO IN IOWA BIRD LIFE

Even though World War II was over when the third issue of Iowa Bird Life for 1945 was published, the issue was still only 16 pages, probably a reflection of continued wartime limitations. The lead article discussed the Davenport May Dawn Bird Concerts that dated back to 1915. These "concerts" featured early morning bird walks followed by a ham and egg breakfast at the Credit Island Inn and talks on birds. In 1926, almost 200 people showed up for the event. The article also has two good photos of Credit Island showing that the habitat there is still much the same now as it was 50 years ago. The main article of the issue describes the third Iowa Spring Bird Count in 1945. A total of 181 species were seen on counts at 14 locales throughout Iowa. This compares to 222 species seen on the 1994 count. One difference that is apparent is limited automobile travel by counters in 1945; only one count had 100 automobile miles and the average was only 34 miles. Although the species lists were largely similar to what would be found in mid May today, a few differences stood out. Only nine species of waterfowl were found statewide, about a typical for most individual counts in the 1990s. Only two counts found any gulls; 6 Ring-billed at Ottumwa and 2 Franklin's at Ames. Among the short articles is one noting that a Great Egret colony that had been active near Sabula for several years in the early 1940s was deserted in 1945. Happily, in 1995, 180 pairs of Great Egret nested in that area. Finally, a review of the book *The Canvasback on a Prairie Marsh* by George Hendrickson describes a timeless book on ducks and marshes that is still in print.--ed.

